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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

OVERTHROW OF THE PAPACY.

The Historical Memoirs of Cardinal Pacca, Prime Minister to Pius VII. Written by Himself. Translated from the Italian by Sir George Head. 2 vols. Longmans.

THERE are historical points of much importance in this work, and there is a great deal, not so much of importance as of interest, relating to the personnel of the Holy Father and his Prime Minister, when the former was tossed from his throne and forcibly abducted, a prisoner from his capital, by Napoleon, the Emperor of France. The previous movements, the intrigues, the fencing, the diplomacy, the cajoling, and the pretences on either side, and the lies and persecutions practised upon the victims, which are elicited in the narrative, fill us with amazement. We mentally exclaim—

"Can such things be,
And overcome us like a summer cloud,
Without our special wonder?"

The barefaced falsehood and remorseless oppression of the French, vainly endeavoured to be parried or evaded by all the arts and resources which Italian fears could suggest, form altogether a humiliating picture of ambition and the vile tricks to which it will stoop for its gratification. The base tools employed, the traitors seduced, the political scoundrelism enacted under the plea of statesmanship, seem to degrade human nature, and make us ashamed of our fellow-creatures in high places. Were they in the lower spheres, criminal trials, punishments, and the scorn and detestation of mankind would be their doom; but truth and honesty, it would appear, are unnecessary in the concerns of nations. The end is to justify the means, even though the end be evil; and rulers and their agents may disregard every principle which the laws of God and man enforce.

Mutato nomine, we have just had another Pope driven from his dominions, and this time by a Democratic, and not an Imperial, conspiracy. Need we ask if the latter was less vicious, hollow, and false in all its parts than the former? The taint of villany was equal in both; and Murder did not hold its red reeking hand in order to attain its purposes.

And what do we read from these doings and events? The lesson is pregnant with instruction, and teaches us to regard the present with a reference to the past. The scene is little changed, and the actors have been succeeded by actors as unprincipled as to motives and unscrupulous as to means. It will be well for the world when truth and candour are deemed as essential to a minister's protocol as to a letter from an honest individual, and an ambassador is no more called upon to lie for his country than an honourable person to lie for himself.

"The Memoirs of Cardinal Pacca, Prime Minister to Pope Pius VII., comprehend the series of events that fall between the taking possession of Rome by the French in 1808, and the abdication of Napoleon in 1814; including consequently the intercourse between the Roman Pontiff and the French authorities in Rome till 6th July, 1809,—the attack of that day on the Quirinale Palace by escalade, and the forcible abduction from Rome of the Pope and Cardinal Pacca,—the imprisonment of the Cardinal for three years and a half, till February, 1813, in the Piedmontese fortress of Fenestrelle,—the means used and the measures

embarked, &c. &c.

adopted by Napoleon in the interim to reorganize the Roman Church and subjugate the Pope, while under durance at Savona, on the shores of the Mediterranean,—and the negotiations that took place afterwards at Fontainebleau between the Pope and the Emperor relating to the conclusion of the Concordat, and his Holiness's subsequent retraction of that document."

Such is, briefly, the scope of the work; and, making allowances for the position of the author, whose defence and apology it is, we have reason to be satisfied with the general integrity of his statements. He himself contrasts with others, and observes:—

"I have read several works which have issued from the press in France, Germany, and Italy, relating to the abduction of Pius VII., and the events that happened immediately previous, wherein the facts are disguised in such a manner that, provided future historians compose their narrative from these contemporaneous pages, they will most certainly, instead of a truthful tale, transmit a capricious romance to posterity. Now to give a few examples. It is a notorious fact, in the first place, that on the memorable day, particularly referred to in the fifth chapter, when the verified copies of the Bull of Excommunication were placarded in the usual places in Rome appointed by the Apostolic Constitution, the Pope was in his Palace on the Monte Cavallo; and the French sentinels, who were posted within a short distance of the Great Gate of the Palace, permitted nobody, with the exception only of the Pope's attendants, to go in or out. There is, nevertheless, a little German treatise relating to Pius VII., published by one Alexander Rennen-Lempff, in the 'Prussian Correspondents' of the year 1812, Nos. 134, 135, and 136, in which it is stated, that on the day above-mentioned, a sacred *funzione* was celebrated in the Papal Chapel, in the Quirinale Palace, and that, after the ceremonial was concluded, the Pope, previous to retiring to his apartments, pronounced a brief but energetic discourse, in which, after having recapitulated the events that had happened successively from the time of the entrance of the French troops [under General Miollis to the time then present, he concluded by pronouncing, 'by virtue of his holy ministry, and of the sublime dignity of Vicar on earth of Christ' (such are the precise words of the author), 'an anathema against the Emperor of the French, and against all those persons who gave him counsel to act against the interests of the Church.' The author adds, moreover, which forms a part of his story not a little curious, that, notwithstanding the restrictions above alluded to, he himself was present at the *funzione*, and heard the Pope himself speak the words above quoted.

"Several French works have also been written on the subject of the imprisonment and the abduction from Rome of Pius VII., in which, notwithstanding the authors are pious ecclesiastics, the facts recorded are nevertheless absolutely false. One particularly contains an anecdote to the effect that, on the occasion of the storming of the Quirinale Palace, after the Holy Father had been arrested by General Radet, the General, by way of accelerating his operations, caused him to be lowered in a chair out of the window; a 'ridiculous falsehood, which even General Radet himself complained of in a letter which he subsequently addressed to His Holiness, and is now in my possession.

"To cite another example of a secular author. When the Emperor Napoleon gave an order, in the year 1809, that all the Cardinals in Italy whose state of health rendered them capable of taking a journey to Paris, should proceed thither, it happened accordingly that in the following year, 1810, no less than twenty-nine Cardinals were residing in that city, and of these three, namely Fesch, Cambacérès, and Maury, were Frenchmen. Of the entire number, five belonged to the order of Suburban Bishops, nineteen to the order of Priests, and five to the order of Deacons. Of the nineteen Priests seventeen were invested with the Episcopal dignity, and among the Cardinal Deacons one, De Bayanne, was a Priest, and there was one only among them all who was not *in ordine sacro*, namely, Cardinal Albani; so that there were, consequently, twenty-two Bishops, three Priests, and four in Deacon's orders. Now one Monsieur de Pradt, the author of several works that have been condemned and prohibited by the Holy See, in one of his books, entitled 'Concordat d'Amérique,' notwithstanding he was well acquainted with all these Cardinals at Paris, and had mixed in their society, writing on the subject of their Establishment, which in derision he calls the 'Cordon bleu de Rome,' has the confidence to assert that the Cardinalate is not at all of a religious character; and he expresses his surprise that the most important affairs of religion are decided upon, and even the Head of the Catholic Church elected by Cardinals of no ecclesiastical order, but belonging to the laity. By way of proving this his assertion, he adds a note, stating that 'recently he had seen at Paris the Dean of the Sacred College, Cardinal Albani, who, at his brother's death having renounced the Cardinal's hat, took a wife, he says, 'and dressed like a layman.'

"Monsieur Savary, the so-called Duc de Rovigo, who was Principal Minister of Police in the time of the Emperor Napoleon, also published not long ago 'Mémoires du Duc de Rovigo, pour servir à l'Histoire de l'Empereur Napoléon, Paris, 1828.' Which memoirs are, in fact, a continual panegyric on his hero Napoleon, whose mind, with the eye of a lynx, he perceives to be well regulated, his disposition benevolent, his conduct in matters of business honourable, and his heart grateful and generous; while, on the other hand, he blackens with the pencil of a Tacitus the good Pius VII., and represents him hard-hearted, obstinate, deceitful, selfish, and covetous.

"The Pope," says he, to use his very words, 'was a miser, and, though in possession of an income amply sufficient for all he could require, he very carefully counted the few dozen pieces of gold he kept in his writing-desk, and made a list of every trifling article of his toilette, from his night-gown to his stockings and linen.'

"Now it seems incredible that, a few years only after the death of Pius VII., it were possible to tell such a barefaced lie, and accuse of meanness and avarice a charitable, benevolent Pontiff, who never allowed whomsoever applied to him as a suppliant to depart unrelieved, who, almost immediately after he had received his Papal revenue, always applied the contents of the very writing-desk above-mentioned to the purpose of alms for the poor and other acts of Christian charity: and who, after a Pontificate of twenty-four years, died so poor that, in order to comply with the dispositions of his last will and testa-

ment, it was indispensable to sell the very furniture of his apartments by auction, and after all, it yielded a smaller sum of money than is frequently realized under similar circumstances by the furniture of a private individual.

"Finally, I was surprised most of all by the extraordinary tissue of mis-stated facts that I found in a manuscript written by the Count Verri, the author of the 'Notti Romane,' who died in Rome a few years ago. Verri was a celebrated literary character, a pure, elegant writer, and he had proposed to write, under the title 'Lotta dal Sacerdotio coll' Impero,' an account of the portion of the history of Pius VII., relating to the disputes with the French Government. Having resided in Rome during the years 1808 and 1809, he was there while the French troops occupied the city at the time when the Cardinals and Prelates were compelled by Napoleon to take their departure, and when the Pope was carried away by General Radet. Under these advantages, and with a view to carry his object into effect, he took all manner of pains to procure authentic information from the attendants who accompanied the Holy Father on his journey to France, and during his subsequent imprisonment at Savona; but notwithstanding all this trouble to collect materials, I discovered in the above-mentioned manuscript—which, fortunately, never was printed—at least thirty facts mis-stated.

"Among these falsehoods there is to be mentioned especially one account which obtained extensive circulation, namely, of visions and ecstasies that it was pretended had happened to Pius VII., and miracles said to have been wrought by him, while he was imprisoned in Savona. But though, indeed, to our short-sighted intelligence it may appear that then, while the sublime dignity of the Church's Supreme Head was trodden under foot, and in a state of abasement, the extraordinary virtues, and above all the heroic patience of Pius VII., under the persecution instigated against the Holy See and his respectable clergy, might, to a certain extent, have deserved of Heaven, for the purpose of confounding the triumphant incredulity of the times, the gift of performing such supernatural operations as are alluded to by St. Paul,

"wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not; yet it is the fact, nevertheless, that God Almighty, whose decrees are always just, and tend to the true interest of the Church, never thought fit to bestow such extraordinary favour on the innocent and persecuted Pontiff."

Little less than a miracle, however, the Cardinal asserts, was the result of the Bull by which Buonaparte was excommunicated, for the prompt and terrible effects wrought by it upon his person, and the destiny was such that his prodigious prospects from that hour began to decline, and, after having fascinated all Europe, and made nations tremble, he found himself, "at last banished on a rock where, like another Nebuchadnezzar, segregated from the fellowship of mankind, without help and comfort from his kindred, and imprisoned by a hostile government, he miserably perished;" and, in regard to his associates, the Cardinal adds, "the even more tragical and fearful deaths of Berthier, Saliceti, and Murat, who were accomplices and abettors of the two sacrilegious usurpations of Rome, would alone afford ample materials to whomsoever may be inclined hereafter, following the example of Lactantius Firmianus, to write a treatise on the miserable end which betides the persecutors of the Church."

Curious as these passages are, we have now to adduce others far more striking. Our first is a metaphorical expression, which is extraordinary, as coming from such lips, and implies that the papacy may approach its fall, for the Cardinal writes:—

"I imagine that the idea that seems to be in

vogue at the present day, namely, that in order to acquire the reputation of genius and talent, to stand well at court, and be considered a strenuous defender of sovereign rights, it is indispensable to enter the lists against the Court of Rome, and with the imagination of Don Quixote create castles out of the Roman congregations and tribunals, and giants out of the cardinals, prelates, and jurists, merely for the sake of the pleasure of attacking them—thereby imitating in these, our own times, the vile ass in *Æsop's* fable, giving the last kick at the dying lion—will also come to an end."

But more direct and astonishing, from such a source, is the opinion that the Temporal power of the Pope may be separated from the Spiritual with advantage to religion. Universal empire seemed to be all but realised by Napoleon, and the Cardinal says:—

"All such appearances, therefore, announced the coming existence of a great monarchy, which might, and actually had in part made to disappear many of those very kingdoms and principalities, which, according to Bossuet's theory, rendered the subjection of the Popes incompatible with the government of the Universal Church."

"From all the above considerations, therefore, it followed as a consequence that Divine Providence, always intent upon the preservation of its Church, having by its inscrutable decrees taken away from the Holy See her temporal power, was preparing a series of changes of states and governments, likely on a future occasion to render it possible that the Pope might even, though he himself were a subject, rule over and govern without any serious detriment the entire flock of the faithful."

"I was further confirmed in the above supposition by imagining it possible that even from the melancholy event of the cessation of the sovereignty of the Pope, the Lord might produce other, and not slight advantages for his Church, and that the loss of the temporal dominion and the greater part of the ecclesiastical property would ultimately prove to be the means of removing, or at any rate of weakening, the degree of jealousy and bad feeling that universally exist against the court of Rome and her clergy."

"I considered that the Pope, relieved of the weighty charge of temporal principality that certainly obliges him to sacrifice too great a portion of his precious time to secular affairs, would be enabled to direct his entire thoughts and attention to the spiritual government of the church, which, though thereby deprived of lustre, pomp, dignity, and the attraction of her temporal benefits, on the other hand would have the advantage of numbering those exclusively who are zealous in the sacred cause among her ministers—those who, so long as they

"desire the office of a bishop, desire a good work." The pope also would in future have less regard, in the choice of his ministers and councillors, to the splendour of birth, the solicitation of influential persons, and the recommendation of sovereigns, of whose Roman promotions it may frequently be observed—

"Thou hast multiplied the nation and not increased the joy; they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil."

"Finally, in our councils on ecclesiastical affairs, the fear of losing the temporal benefits of preferment would cease to be regarded as a motive, which, so long as it has a place in the scale, is liable to turn the balance, and influence the rejection or the adoption of a resolution, by pusillanimous condescension."

This is a remarkable doctrine and confession to come from so high and zealous a member of the Church of Rome.

The proceedings of the French, under General Miollis, in Rome, after having got possession by dint of sheer falsehood, were, throughout, cruel

and atrocious. The incidents follow each other with the rapid succession of a tale, and have more than the interest of a novel; but we reserve this portion for next Saturday.

NORWAY, 1849.

Norway in 1848-9. By Thomas Forester, Esq. With Extracts from the Journals of Lieutenant M. S. Biddulph. 8vo. Longmans.

Our two countrymen seem to have enjoyed a delightful ramble among the Fjelds and Fjords of the central and western parts of Norway, and, in addition to their accounts of the tour, afford us some remarks on the political and social condition of the country. The descriptions of the scenery are glowing and impressive; but what can be done by words to give an adequate or distinct idea of the wild magnificence of Norway—its dark pine forests, rugged mountains, splendid cataracts, and secluded valleys, where nature seems to repose from the grandeur and turbulence around? The verbal picturesque must fail; but our authors have eked it out admirably with a series of illustrations which do justice to these remarkable features. The frontispiece, Hittor Church, is a unique edifice; and the Valley and the Falls of the Nid, Sillefjord, Rjukan-Foss, Miös-Vand, the scenes near Hardanger, the Hildal-Vand, the Huringørne, the Forest of Koldeid, and other engravings, so help out the enthusiastic text, that we really feel as if we were accompanying the travellers on their way. But we can transfer none of this spirit to our pages, and must therefore be content with minor matters. Here is a gratifying sketch of society:—

"In Norway, even on the main lines of road," Mr. F. observes, "the avocation of an innkeeper is held in low estimation. The people have not yet generally learnt to make hospitality to strangers a marketable commodity. We soon discovered this amiable prejudice, and, in our future Rambles, were careful not to claim entertainment from the farmers upon the strength of our ability and willingness to pay for it. A slight conversation on our route and plans never failed (except in one memorable instance) to lead to an invitation to enter their houses and take rest and refreshment. On our departure, we made such offering as we thought adequate to the good will, accompanied by thanks and expressions which gave it rather the character of a *quidam honorarium*, than the payment of a reckoning. It was not always received without some show of reluctance; and it was sometimes curious to observe a sort of struggle between the feeling of which I have been speaking, on the one hand, and the not less national, I apprehend, keenness for gain, on the other. Long, however, may it bear the proverb, *Point d'argent point de Suisse*, can be fairly applied to the good people of this semi-Alpine country."

"On the present occasion we had heard too much of the hospitality of the people of all classes to be under any great uneasiness. The choice seemed to lie between the substantial farm-house on the slope of the hill, and the parsonage, or *preste-gaard*, which stood near the water's edge. The latter had, on various accounts, the decided preference. In other countries the priest's house is often the only refuge for the forlorn traveller. Sometimes, in such cases, it is admissible to cleave scores by the off-riding of an *honorarium*, which there are no scruples about receiving. So in the convents of the south of Europe, it is well understood that the *qualche cosa per carità* goes to defray the expenses of the hospitality which the rules enjoin, but which the revenues of the establishment are no longer adequate to support. But even there I have often found it genuine, and irrespective of the offering; and the solitary of remote convents in the Apennines, gathered after a frugal supper, round the pine-logs blazing on the hearth of the vaulted refectory, have been as eager for news of what was going on in the

world from which they were shut out as the tenants of a frontier stock-farm on the verge of civilisation.

"We already knew enough of the position of the Norwegian clergy to be sensible that the hospitality we proposed to claim must be wholly gratuitous; and it is so foreign to our habits and ideas to walk up to a strange gentleman's house and ask for board and lodging, that when our skiff touched the shore, it required much exhortation from my companion, who very wisely determined to stay by the boat, and a conviction of the imperative necessity of the case, to induce me to make the essay.

"But my scruples were groundless. The worthy *pasteur* had seen our approach, and came forth to meet me. He was a man of middle age and pleasing manners. Finding that I was an Englishman, he regretted that he could not talk English; but, addressing me in French, he interrupted my apologies for the intrusion, and pressed me to come in. Nor was he satisfied without going down himself to the shore and extending the invitation to my fellow-traveller in person. We were shown into a very pleasant sitting-room: the windows commanding charming views of the lake, and the piano-forte and vases of flowers gave it a cheerful and habitable look. A tray with a slight repast made its almost instant appearance. We were attended by a most respectable female domestic, under whose auspices we speedily made ourselves presentable, and, returning to the saloon, were introduced to the wife and daughter of our worthy host. We spent a very delightful evening. The *præsten* led us to a point from which there was a splendid view of the broad expanse of water, bounded by a noble group of mountains on the western shore of the lake: the foreground was of the green slopes of pasture and corn which we had seen from the boat. He afterwards conducted us to the church. It was the first time we had entered a Norwegian church, and we were struck with the appearance of the highly-decorated altar and rich embroidered vestment which hung by its side.

"On our return to the *prestegård* we found an officer of the Norwegian service, who was employed in the trigonometrical survey of that part of the country. We received some valuable suggestions for our future guidance. Our host entered warmly into our plans, and drew up for us an itinerary, in which our several stages and resting-places to the foot of the Hardanger-fjord were pointed out. He encouraged us to think that we should find the passage of the field practicable at this season. We were under some anxiety about it, as Mr. Barrow had been dissuaded from attempting it in the month of July. The ladies were kindly interested in such specimens of English workmanship as our equipments afforded. They admired the perfect finish and excellence of every article of English manufacture. The prepared waterproof cloth in which our maps and other articles were inclosed was a novelty; and a drinking-cup and air-cushion of similar material was, now as ever, an object that afforded great amusement. I had much conversation with the *pasteur* on the ecclesiastical arrangements of Norway, the result of which, confirmed by subsequent opportunities of observation and inquiry, will be found in the sequel. He was a man of enlarged and liberal mind; and our own institutions, and the state of affairs generally in Europe, were freely discussed.

"Thus the long twilight wore away till after ten o'clock, when candles were lighted, and the table was spread for supper. It was abundantly and nicely arranged. Though attended by the domestic, the ladies rose at times to do the honours in certain *petits soirs*, according to a custom of the country, which, though not without a grace and kindness, was at first painful to us; and though all that is menial is on such occasions performed by the services of an attendant, and

there is something kindly and even graceful in the usage, we could never altogether reconcile ourselves to it. The *præsten* departed from the usual habits of the natives to pledge the strangers in a bumper of Rhenish to their *bon voyage*. On our part, in rising from table, we went through, pretty well for a first attempt, the national ceremony which follows every meal, of shaking hands with the master and mistress of the house and all the company round, saying to each, *Tak för maden*.—Thanks for the meat.

"When we came down stairs in the morning, we found the floor of the hall sprinkled with small sprigs of the spruce-fir. Coffee had been served while we were in the act of dressing. A plunge in the lake from the wooded point beyond the parsonage prepared us to do justice to a plentiful breakfast. We were pressed to prolong our visit: it was quite out of our calculations. In making our acknowledgments to the worthy *pasteur*, M. Jonnessen, and his agreeable family, we felt the pain of such pleasant associations being so transitory. On this and other similar occasions we could only express our hopes of having some opportunity of returning English for Norwegian hospitality; a wish, we trust, in some instances destined to be realised. In collecting our traps for departing, we found every thing restored to the best condition: even the needle had not been idle; and we could not have started from home, under the care of a good mother or sister, in better trim. There was genuine and unpretending kindness in attentions such as these."

We trust our readers will not think a companion sketch too much, especially as it refers to the youth and education of the country:—

"From Däl we were to visit the Rjukan-Foss. It was the base of our operations for crossing the Hardanger-fjord: there we had planned to pass the following day. It was our point of departure for a line of country little frequented, and we had to arrange the steps of our further progress. Speculations as to what awaited us, such as often occupy the traveller when feeling his way through unknown tracks, had been rife, as, wet and weary, we plodded our way up the valley of the Maan in a deluge of rain, which did not damp our enthusiasm at its wild and beautiful scenery. We were not disappointed: in that unpretending *giest-huus* we found not merely shelter and rest and warmth, but the most anxious care for our smallest wants and wishes, and unexpectedly good company in the persons of some students from Christiania, who, with the habits common to their class on the Continent, were spending their vacation in a pedestrian excursion. Stripped of our sodden garments, and our immediate necessities supplied, one of these was added to our councils. . . . The next morning at breakfast the collegians were our guests: we were able to give them trout from the river, fresh eggs, English chocolate, and a bowl of wild strawberries which were just coming into season here, in addition to the preparations of meal and the milk and cream, the staple of a Norwegian repast. We were *bons camarades*, as associates of the fraternity of wayfarers with scrip and staff; and there was an *esprit du corps* between us as university men. From the present specimens, and from others whose acquaintance I had subsequently the good fortune to make, I am ready to think that Oxford has no reason to disdain one of the youngest of her sisters. The university of Christiania was founded in 1811, by Frederic VI., king of Denmark and Norway. The system is that which is universal on the Continent, of lectures by professors, and frequent examinations to test the proficiency of the student at successive stages. Freshmen bring with them a certificate from the rector of the high school at which they have been educated, and are besides subjected to a pretty severe examination, the *examinatio arrium*.

After a time they go out in the faculty of the

profession for which they are intended, as *Theologus*, *Jurist*, *Medicus*. The professors are very able men, and hold a distinguished rank in society. The university is endowed with considerable revenues in land, and receives liberal support from votes of the Storting. Though the students reside in private lodgings in the town, and out of the halls of lecture the authorities exercise little or no supervision, they are well conducted, have nothing of the vulgar swagger of the *Burschen* of Germany, do not glorify themselves in drunken brawls, and are by no means likely to take the lead in the construction of barricades. I have good reason to think that their average acquirements are considerably above the level of those of the *οἱ πολλοί* with us; though for depth and refinement in classical reading, and for mathematical acumen, I should consider that the class-men of our universities are decidedly superior. Our young friend, who had assisted at our councils of the preceding evening, was intelligent and inquiring; he was designed for the church. Upon obtaining his certificate in Theology, he would acquire the title of *Candidatus*: he would then be a candidate for his turn to a vacant living. Succession by seniority is the general rule, but a good *testatur* will shorten the period of probation. In the meantime, the *candidatus* obtains employment as schoolmaster or tutor, and sometimes as assistant to the incumbents of the larger parishes. The expenses of a university course are not great, as there are few or no fees; and the humble student can procure his board and lodging at Christiania for ten or twelve dollars per month.

"It is the custom in Norway for educated persons to acquire some one modern language, either French, English, or German. Our friend had learnt a little English in the intervals of his other studies. He was kind enough to add to our vocabulary of words and phrases in the vernacular, and to give us a lesson on pronunciation in the popular idiom, of which we found the benefit. Part of the morning was also consumed in elaborating the letter of introduction from our host of Däl to his friend on the Mjös-Vand, which the student translated for us. Being a curiosity of its kind, I subjoin the English version for the amusement of the reader:—

"GOOD GUNNIF.

"Hereby are sent you two Englishmen, in the intention, if you yourself, together with two horses to ride on, are entreated, to show them the way over the mountain, the straightest way to Ullensvang, or if there be no such straight way to that place, then the well-known way to Eidfjord is to be taken. If you should not have time (be it leisure) to execute this journey, and to procure for the aforesaid Englishmen two riding-horses, please then to set a righteous man in your place; and let all be done in such a manner that we both may be known (acknowledged) to be serviceable, just (trustworthy), and not extravagant men, and that we, by doing so, may acquire the honour of being able to direct other men to you in the same intention. "OLE TORGENSEN.

"Däl, the 28th July, 1848.

"To the worthy *Gunnuf Svensen at Vaagen*."

The good Olaf had, it will have appeared, a shrewd eye for business, as well as a proper sense of what was necessary for maintaining the national character in the eye of strangers; but it is only just to say, that his anticipations were fully realised; and that future tourists may rely with confidence on the good offices and fair dealing, not only of these individuals, but, as I have abundant reason to believe, of most others of their class, wherever they may be disposed to direct their steps in rambles through this romantic country.

In another place, where a difficulty occurred in turning Bank of England notes, or letters of credit, into hard cash, for travelling expenses, the dilemma was pleasantly solved on both its horns,

though the parties had to negotiate in indifferent Latin: Norsk, French, and English, being alike unknown tongues. But we will not trespass farther on the authors. After the solid work of Mr. Laing, and the interesting productions of Mr. Barrow, and other tourists in the far north, it would be supererogatory to enter into statistics and organisation, though brought under view to the present date, or dwell repeatedly on national and social characters and splendid scenery. Suffice it to recommend the volume as a very agreeable accession to that class of reading which fills its space in literature as we mentally pass along, and also captivates the eye with its exhibitions of art. For the latter we are indebted to Lieut. Biddulph.

NEW NOVELS.

[The prolific press of Mr. Newby gives us plenty and variety of Novels to supply the slackness in other quarters, which used to be more productive. We have now to deal with:—]

1. *Courtship and Wedlock; or, Lovers and Husbonds.* By the author of "Cousin Geoffrey," "the Jilt," and other popular fictions. 3 vols.
2. *The Lady of the Bed-chamber.* By Mrs. A. Crawford. 2 vols.
3. *Life's Sunshine.* By Miss H. M. Rathbone, author of "Rose Allen," &c. 2 vols.

HERE is almost a novel library, and, at any rate, of three very distinct kinds. The authoress of the first work has frequently deserved and received our approbation, and, in the present instance, the dramatic interest of her characters and plot, merits a repetition of our praise. Nor are the lessons of life which she enforces less worthy of commendation. Three foreigners, to use the novelist's word *distingué*, are brought into fashionable and intimate juxtaposition with English parties moving in the upper circles of society; and the connections which result in consequence exhibit the moral in several aspects of change, and afford the needful opportunities for individual action, scenes in various countries (France, Italy, and England), and circumstances, illustrative of every-day doings, as well as of a romantic and mysterious nature. Our readers know that we never trespass within these boundaries, and therefore we must exemplify the talents of our author with a didactic portion, which does not interfere with the secrets of the story. It opens the book and declares the writer's purpose.

"Lovers and husbands!—The worshippers and the worshipped!—The slaves and the masters!—The humble and the mighty!—What a theme of intense and boundless interest for the whole female world!—For who, while triumphing in the patient devotion of the lover, does not feel some misgivings, as to how it may be, when it is her turn to watch, to wait, to endure, to 'Love, honour, and obey!'—And who, however happy in her choice, however fair her portion of domestic bliss, however easy her yoke, however light her burthen, does not look back with a wild and deep regret, to those bright days, when the kind and careful, but matter-of-fact, calculating, and alas! fault-finding husband, was the adoring, the sanguine, the all-admiring lover!

"In vain, in vain. It is alas! quite certain, and it is proved every day by the experience of thousands, that the intimacy of domestic life which frequently increases the warm and romantic devotion of the female heart, has a most refrigerating and disenchanting effect on the yes! we must say it, (doubt it who will!) the less sublime affection of man!

"A great writer has said, treating of this very subject, that 'Custom comes with its inevitable curse,' and many men seem rather to pride themselves, on the readiness, with which they cease to adore any object, become familiar to their senses—Yea! and to despise what they consider a sort of spaniel attribute of woman—the power of loving on, and often more and more fondly, in

spite of weaknesses revealed, faults discovered, unkindnesses, and even cruelties endured!

"But, that it is truly noble or great, to be able to love, only as long as novelty lasts, as the senses are unsated, and the eye unfamiliar with the charm, we must most positively deny; that surely is the loftiest power of fancy, which can invest with a thousand subtle associations and ideal charms—

"The primrose by the river's brim,"

"The every-day companion, the fire-side friend!—that is the noblest imagination which can discover some new charm in the most familiar face!—some new music in the most familiar voice, some new virtue in the most closely, studied and best known character!—ALL CONSTANCY IS STRENGTH!—all inconstancy, hear it ye scoffers who pride yourselves, on what you fancy, is a delicate *epicureanism* of taste, and a poetical love of variety and of change, ALL INCONSTANCY IS WEAKNESS! The clinging devotion, you are haughtily pleased to recognise in woman, even while you affect to despise it, does not always arise from blindness to your faults, grovelling passion for you persons, or the weak reliance of the parasite plant, that clings to the noble tree, it adorns and destroys.—No! you are often loved, (little as you deem it) because you need so much, the comfort, the protection, the watchful tenderness of woman's love!—Because, however gifted, lofty, and independent may seem the man she loves, woman knows and feels, that the world will forsake, its objects disappoint, Man rival and betray, and that he, the mighty and the scornful, has nothing real to depend upon but woman's love, nothing firm to cling to but woman's constancy, nothing of certain shelter, but woman's bosom!

"Yes! in woman's love (even for the loftiest) there is a tender, a provident, a protecting anxiety, partaking of the nature of maternity,—and often the glorious attributes with which she perseveres in investing some false idol, are a proof, not of his greatness or glory, but of the loftiness of her own imagination and the purity of her own heart!

"Again, her readiness to forgive cannot be a proof of weakness, since the more she forgives, the more she copies the All-Powerful, the All-Wise, the All Good!

"It is a very low, mundane, and Corsairpride, the pride in vengeance and in the Satanic incapability of forgiving!

"There is nothing so sublime as a prompt and entire forgiveness. The great Johnson, never seems so small as a moralist, as when he talks of delighting in a 'good hater,' and every true christian heart responds to the poet's exclamation—

'To err is human, to forgive divine.'

"Man need not then glory so much, that neither as an individual nor, as a race, he can even forgive a frailty, or take a penitent to his bosom! nor need woman be ashamed to own, that however wronged, neglected, or outraged, her heart is even prone to forgive!

"However this, we must own, that the same woman who is extreme to mark what is done amiss by a Lover, is often ready and eager to put the most favourable construction on all that emanates from a Husband; and in this she is surely wise—one must yield, one must obey, one must follow; and when once the wife has sensibly made up her mind to be that one; and where she cannot do so, she has not only erred, but perjured herself, she cannot do better than cultivate a habit, of faith and reliance on him, whom she has chosen, knowing that both the laws of God and man had appointed him as her Guide, her Comforter, her Protector.

"But with the lover, there is no such duty. Woman cannot be too cautious, too watchful, too exacting in her choice of a lover, who, from the slave of a few weeks or months—(rarely years)—

is to become the Master of her future destiny, and the guide, not only through all time, but perhaps eternity!

"What madness then to suffer the heart to be taken captive by beauty, talent, grace, fascination, before the reason is convinced of the soundness of principle, the purity of faith, the integrity of mind of the future husband.

"It is not always the all-enduring, devoted, and impassioned lover who makes the kindest, the most attentive and forbearing husband.

"We have often seen, the coldest inattention, the most mortifying disparagement, the most insulting inconstancy, follow even in the first months of matrimony, on the most romantic devotion and blindest adoration of courtship. The honeymoon seems to exhaust every drop of honey, and leave nothing but stings, in the jar.

"Again, the lover who dares to be a MAN, and to 'hint a fault, and hesitate dislike,' even though the happiness of his whole life seems to him at stake.—One who may forget a bouquet, or neglect a compliment, arrive a few minutes too late, or be disinclined for a waltz or a polka, not admire a fashion, or disagree with a sentiment, such a lover, despicable and indifferent as he is pronounced to be, by astounded mammams and indignant aunts (jealous for their daughters and nieces, as for themselves),—and far as he falls short, of romantic sisters' and young friends' exacting notions,—may turn out the best of good husbands after all!

"If he dared to be a man, when he had every thing to gain, he will not be a coward when he has (in the world's opinion), nothing to lose.

"We say the world—because in our own estimation every married pair (even after the indissoluble knot is tied), have still much to lose, if they risk one iota of the trust, the confidence and the tenderness of those, whose mere freedom they have enchained for life.

"The tale then to which we have given the title of *COURTSHIP AND WEDLOCK*, and which treats of course, of varieties of both species, and of woman as the 'wood' and the 'won' in Courtship and in Wedlock, will, we hope, be found to contain both precept and practice, example and warning."

Where such ability is shown, readers need not fear that the tale will lag, or be deficient in interest.

The *Lady of the Bed-chamber* has its scene laid in France, amid the splendours of the reign of Louis XIV. The heroine is the daughter of a gallant officer, who has lost his life in saving that of the king, who consequently espouses her fortunes and places her at Court. Here we have all the ingredients which usually complement novels of this description; loves, intrigues, villainies, disappointments, and despairs. But all we shall say of them is, that they are well detailed to excite the curiosity of the reader.

Life's Sunshine is a contrast, a tale of humble and middle life at home. Its incidents are of the sadder kind, and the inculcation of a religious order.

RELIGIOUS ANTAGONISM.

חֲנוּךְ נְעָרִים *Initiation of Youth.* Containing the Principles of Judaism, &c. By the Rev. B. H. Ascher. Solomon.

At a period when, nearly throughout the civilised world, there are active energies at work to curtail the privileges and reduce the authority of every description of religious teachers and Church establishments, and when, indeed, the professors of infidelity and atheism question and endeavour to overturn every religious creed, it was to be expected that the occupants of the strongholds thus attacked would be on the alert to defend them and sustain their positions in the existing social system. Accordingly, we find controversies raging on

every side around us, and every hierarchy and sect repelling their assailants and vindicating their right to be the guides of mankind and enjoy the consideration that belong to so important and sacred an office. Such is the fact, and such the state of the world.* As in politics, so in religion, great divisions and a mighty antagonism prevail, and distract us with change and fear. It is not, however, our province to engage in the lamentable strife, and we only state the case as a premonition to our notice of this little book, which sets forth the grounds whereupon the oldest of Religions builds its claims to be received as Divine and to rule the minds of the human race. Connected with this is the demand of the Jews in Britain for an equal participation in the constitutional rights of British subjects. On this topic, which may, after all, inscribe the main object of the publication, the author says:—

"Israel's wish for a thorough emancipation is not based, as his opponents pretend, on material or worldly advantages to be derived from such an equalisation; for this might merely be the portion of a few individuals. Suppose the Jews were to succeed in their just cause of being permitted to occupy offices of honour and rank in the legislative assembly, by which the last barrier of intolerance would be broken down; the material advantage of this success would only fall to the portion of a few individuals, sufficiently prepared with external and endowed with internal and moral means to fulfil the duties of such arduous and responsible offices; and who again must first obtain the reliance, affection, and suffrages of their brethren the legal electors. But the true and immeasurable advantage of a complete emancipation of all the Jews, consists in the public declaration of the state, that there is nothing in Judaism which is calculated to deter its votaries from labouring with truth, honesty, equity, and zeal for the common welfare. So long as the way to legislative offices is barred against the Jews, it will always appear that government still considers them, so long as they remain faithful to their creed, however loyal, however learned, however honest, as incapacitated from serving their fellow creatures. To throw off such a stigma, the Jews justly exert all their moral efforts."

There follows a curious question and answer, which we confess our inability clearly to understand. It runs thus:—

"Q. Are the Jews commanded to convert other nations to Judaism?

"A. No! the Jews are destined by God to be a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation; but all men cannot be priests, and all nations need not to become Jews in order to obtain the favour of God, or to be his true worshippers."

The Jews, therefore, do not trouble themselves with endeavouring to make proselytes. Indeed, they have never been in a political condition to venture on such a course; but assuredly their eager pursuit of gain and intense worldliness seem to be a strange course of preparation for "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

But a more marked and painful impression made by this work is the extreme familiarity with which the Almighty God is treated throughout. He is represented, not as allegorically, but as really and personally talking away to people; as if these conversations were literally true, and not a method adopted for the sake of teaching certain doctrines to the multitude, and governing the ignorant by precepts derived from heavenly inspiration. The oral law or tradition rests chiefly on this sort of authority, and nearly the whole Talmud asserted to be Divine authority. For, we are told:—

"These oral or traditional doctrines were transmitted from Moses to Joshua, from Joshua to the
* A letter from Mr. John Harrison, its Editor, and a copy of the *Westgate Times*, show us how violent and bitter a schism has broken out among the sect of Wesleyan Methodists. Mr. Harrison, a local preacher, and other Reformers, have been expelled from the Connection with as high a hand as if Pope or Inquisitor were at its head.

elders of his time, who again handed them down to the prophets, and the prophets to the men of the great Synod.

"Q. But how are we authorised to ascribe to these laws the name of revelation?

"A. Because there were in the above-mentioned synods not only several prophets, but also their successors, known by the name of *Tanna'im*, men who continually devoted their time to the study of the law, for no other view than to perfect themselves on earth, and to enjoy the blessing of Divine inspiration. Moreover, the written law cannot be understood, unless we have recourse to the oral law. Let no one imagine that Scripture alone is sufficient to attain a proper knowledge of our sacred religion; for the student will soon perceive the sources whence our translators and commentators have drawn, and are obliged to draw, in that ocean of knowledge—the Talmud, for the elucidation of difficult and obscure passages. The importance of tradition will be proved by the study thereof."

Of a similar nature is the subjoined extract:—

"Q. Is it reasonable to believe that the Almighty God should, at sundry times and in divers instances, have suspended the laws of nature, which he had established? that he should have visited, in an extraordinary manner, this little globe, this atom of the universe, and by signs and wonders have made a revelation of his will to an insignificant being like man? that he should have chosen to himself a particular people, that they might witness to the whole world his existence and attributes?

"A. By means of my reason I could certainly not have arrived at such conclusions; but what surprises my reason is not at all contrary to it; and it would be very unreasonable if I measured the infinite wisdom of God by the standard of my own faculties. 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord: for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.'—(*Isaiah* lv. 8, 9) . . . I cannot, indeed, penetrate the profundity of the thoughts of God, but I have a perfect evidence that the Jewish people have been the depository of the law of God, the instruments in the hand of God for declaring His name through the whole world."

The line of argument is continued.

"Though we may endeavour in the pursuit of our studies to clear up the obscure passages in Scripture—though we may search for the reason on which the ceremonial observances are founded, we are still not authorised, nor can we find reasons for all. In this instance, we must consider all precepts contained in holy writ as emanating from one teacher; as flowing from the same source that gave us the laws intelligible to our weak mind, and equally binding upon us. As soon as we doubt the divinity of one part of holy writ, it may be considered as if we had denied the whole."

And yet the contrary is immediately asserted, and the author says, "The Jewish religion is nothing but a *monitor of nature and reason*."

To us this appears to be a complete contradiction; on the obverse we have all derived from the oral revelations of God himself, and on the reverse, human nature and reason to lead us virtuously through this life to a future state of happiness in the next, though Scripture nowhere lays down the immortality of the soul; and—

"Hence the omission of an especial and clear dogma in the Pentateuch containing this doctrine must not surprise the Israelite. What need was there for a legislator to preach immortality, who during his life was forty days and forty nights without requiring physical nourishment? What needs a legislator to teach the existence of a spiritual world, to whom angels were indifferent, and who only panted for the presence of God?"

These extracts and remarks will afford our readers an idea of Mr. Ascher's production.

An Examination of the Claims of the Free Church, &c. By John Wilson, D.D. Edinburgh: Paton and Ritchie.

DR. WILSON, the minister of Stirling, takes up the cudgels against the claims advanced in favour of the Free Church by its staunch advocate, the Rev. R. Buchanan. The argument is conducted in a reasonable tone, and without asperity; but as polemics are not to our taste, nor the forte of the *Literary Gazette*, we quote only a few lines of the conclusion:—

"My conviction is," says Dr. Wilson, "that, in the great outline and bearing of the controversy which led to the late secession from the Established Church, she has been in the right, and the Free Church in the wrong. In holding this opinion, I am honest: as to the validity of it, I see no reason for hesitancy: neither have I felt reluctance in making the avowal and opening up the ground on which I stand. Silence as to opinions on which we differ, is not a duty, so long as erroneous judgments are pronounced against us by any portion of the community. It is right that we endeavour to remove misapprehension, because misapprehension impedes the exercise of mutual love. It is dutiful to do what in us lies to allay prejudice, for prejudice forbids the expression of mutual love. It is all-important to restrain, if we can, the commission of an injurious act, even for the sake of him who may be tempted to commit it; because, in the well-applied language of the poet, 'He never forgives who does his brother wrong.' Accordingly, I see many reasons why all parties should endeavour to surmount the jealousies which our divisions have caused. I see many reasons why we should look one another in the face with the beamings of an affectionate eye. I see many reasons why we should co-operate in all benevolent schemes, in as far as ability and opportunity may allow,—why, in short, we should perfect uniformity in feeling, in preparation for entering upon a new and enlarged sphere of Christian love, that the world may soon be enabled to say, even of the Established and Dis-established churches, Behold how these Christians bear one with another. I think the members of the Free Church have drawn a very narrow circle round themselves; and the manifestation of this exclusive spirit on their part, has elicited many prayers from the brethren with whom they were once united, that, under a Divine influence, they may soon feel the desire of widening the circle, and of rendering it more comprehensive and catholic. To this tends the 'Examination' which I now lay before the Christian portion of the community."

"'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished," but we fear neither to be hoped for nor expected in our days.

The Method of the Divine Government, Physical and Moral. By the Rev. James McCosh, A.M. 8vo. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co.

MR. McCOSH is a reverend and pious interpreter between God and man, and elaborately discusses his important and copious subject in every point of view. That it is altogether unfit for opinion in such a Journal as ours will at once be felt; all we can, therefore, do, is to recommend it to the religious world, as an able treatise on topics of the most vital importance to mankind.—[We should, at the request of the author, mention that its abbreviated title in our last week's list of new publications might give an erroneous idea of its nature.]

A Necessity of Separation from the Church of England. By John Canne. Edited for the Hanserd Knolly's Society, by the Rev. C. Stovel. 8vo.

ABOUT two hundred years ago, John Canne was a Nonconformist preacher, having separated himself from the Established Church; and, being

obliged to leave his country on account of his principles, he sought refuge in Amsterdam, and there wrote and published polemical works, of which the one now re-edited created the greatest sensation. The persecutions of the Puritans, and the fierce religious feuds of the period in which he flourished and wrote, frightfully blot the page of history, and we have no wish to dwell on their memory. Yet the reader will find in this volume much striking matter, and Canne, who published a noted edition of the Bible, to have been one of the ablest and most uncompromising of dissenters.

EDUCATION.

[School books are usually ripe about this time, when the return to study from the Christmas holidays makes the very railroads look youthful and radiant.—Ed. L. G.]

Guy's Royal Victoria Spelling Book. By J. Guy, Jun. (Cradock and Co.) This small volume has much to recommend it to our special approval. The principles on which it is constructed are, in our judgment, the best and the most undeniable. It not only begins at the lowest steps in the ladder of Education, but it dwells upon them, and does not hurry the learner, with crude emulation, to hasten upwards, till, by repetition, he has made himself sure and surefooted on the earliest rounds. *Testina lente* is an admirable motto; and "the more haste the worse speed" an unflinching commentary. The dullest apprehensions need not be afraid of a system which drills without fatiguing, and, like the discipline of the army, only by practice ensures perfection. And when we consider this great merit, and the able manner in which it is wrought out, by preparing the scholar for his reading task, by previous spelling lessons of the words of which it will consist, we cannot but think that Mr. Guy's method would be excellently adapted for the use of Missionaries, who undertake to make our language known to the ignorant natives of the uncivilised regions, to enlighten which their labours are devoted. Another quality of this book which has satisfied us of its applicability to the purpose end is, that it confines itself to the one object, and does not divert or confuse the acquisitive mind with other branches of tuition. It is an Elementary and Spelling Book, and neither Child nor Savage would be distracted with grammar or geography or any other study. Let these come in due course and time. Learn first to spell and read; and this, the novel plan, now under our notice, will certainly enable you to accomplish, we were going to say, almost without diligence. At any rate, you cannot go on to be a dunce; you must crawl before you can try to walk, and walk before you can try to run. We have, perhaps, said too much about so unpretending a work; but we think the great principle so efficient, from first to last, in supplying education and communicating knowledge, that we are not sorry to take our text from a small-priced school book.

Hughes's Outlines of Physical Geography (Longmans), is replete with instruction in this branch of geography, which has of late come to be placed before pupils with the distinctness it so well merits, for all its information is truly "knowledge," and the individual who masters and remembers the contents of this single volume will have a very general acquaintance with the great features of the globe we inhabit. The same able teacher (Mr. Hughes, of Greenwich Hospital, also published by Longmans) gives us a Manual of Explanatory Arithmetic, which is as simple and clear as elementary instruction could desire.

Easy and Practical Introduction to the French Language. By J. Haas. (Darton and Co.) Fashioned on the German model of Dr. Ahn, this little volume is expected to be as easy and usefully progressive in English as it has the character of being in German tuition. We think it well calculated for its office.

Hints of an Analysis of English and of French History, by D. W. Turner (Parker), has justly

reached a second edition; and, for brief historical hints, may be conned with benefit by learners.

Hints on the Pronunciation of the English Language, by M. Arder (Law), contains much plain and good advice, and is illustrated by appropriate extracts from standard writings.

Rudimentary Navigation, by H. W. Jeans (Longmans), is addressed to a peculiar class, and exhibits the leading rules for navigation aptly for beginners.

Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Parts 1 and 2 (the same), has been before the public some time, and deservedly making its way into new editions. Mr. Jeans' methods appear to be exceedingly well devised.

Education as it Is, Ought to Be, and Might Be. By Joseph Bentley. (Johnstone and Hunter.) Mr. Bentley's work on health obtained our warm commendations; and though the present is not a school-book, it offers very sage counsels on the subject of mature education. It is true the author is a theorist and enthusiast, and looks for far larger results than we can anticipate from his plans. But if there be errors, they are on the right side; and for the sake thereof, we must forgive the rather plain out-spokenness of some of his arguments, and even his personalities in other instances. Temperance, national education, and sanitary measures are all zealously enforced according to his peculiar views, and, at any rate, we may state that the principles are sound, and the intentions laudable.

The Morality of All Nations. By F. Albites. (Dulau and Co.) Moral exercises and axioms in Italian, French, and English; useful in the acquisition of the foreign languages, and inculcating many of the best principles for conduct in life, and the formation of character.

Solutions to the Questions of the First General Examination of Schoolmasters. By the Inspectors of Schools, &c. In the foregoing we see what are proposed to be lessons for pupils, but in this volume we have aggregated a mass of intelligence to be taught to the teachers. Great pains must have been bestowed upon it by Messrs. Hammond and Goodall, and no page of it can be consulted without advantage. Another strong recommendation of it is, that it may serve as a model for the tuition of youth.

CENTO OF POETRY.

The Parrot, and other Poems, from Gresset. By T. S. Allen. London: Longmans. Daventry: Tomalin and Potts.

Our review of Mr. Robert Snow's version of "The Parrot," three weeks ago, has procured us the presentation of Mr. Allen's volume, which was published in 1848. There is an amusing frontispiece of the nuns and their pet; and the poem itself is rendered neatly enough, with some of the quiet turns of the original. We need not repeat how difficult this is with an author so elegant, and we might almost state with every syllable, not to say every epithet, weighed and polished to the utmost, as we find in the language of the French monk, which has extorted the applause of many of the first critics of the Continent, and been considered as a literary phenomenon. We will not, however, go again over the "Vert-Vert," which appeared when he was twenty-four years of age, and has been so excellently rendered by Mr. Snow, as testified in our review (see L. G., No. 1723), but offer quotations from Mr. Allen's "Careme Impromptu" and "Lutrin Vivant," which exhibit the same playfulness, wit, and gentle satire that render the author's first production so brilliant and entertaining.

The "Impromptu Lent" is a very ludicrous description of a pious priest in a remote island of the Armorica coast, who, not having provided himself with an almanac, and being shut out from the mainland by inclement weather, could regulate none of the observances of the Church:—

"For three long months of frost and snow
No calendar,—what could he do?
How fix the feasts—those days the best?
How these distinguish from the rest?
In such a case, a priest more school'd,
His church had surely never rul'd,
And more devout perhaps than he,
Had rashly brav'd the bolsters sea:
But our good priest, I here must tell,
Knew better,—lov'd his life too well:
A long-acustom'd hand beside,
Who had experience for his guide;
Full well he understood his trade,
Of study ne'er a trouble made,
And, in his trite old-fashion'd way,
By heart could psalms and lessons say.
Thus acting without noise or rout,
And month the first he mumbled out,
And thrice his flock, 'mong other things,
He urg'd to keep the feast of Kings.
All this was easy, well he knew,
But there was something else to do;
The feast-days moveable, full well
He knew at once he could not tell.
What must he do? He little car'd,
As thinking they might well be spar'd,
And, knowing not when they might fall,
He would not keep those feasts at all;
Or thought it best to wait, I ween,
Till he himself to France had been.
He deem'd he was divinely taught:
But no such thing (excuse the thought),
His chief advisers were, 'tis said,
His curate, and his servant-maid,
(The very trustiest of her race),
And Matthew, wisest of the place.
Thus far, and January pass'd,
And February slip't o'er fast;
Then March, and still the north-wind blew:
The vernal season nearer drew,
(A month might better weather bring),
So calmly waiting for the spring,
While days unknowingly he pass'd
And own'd he knew not when to fast,
But yet he would not be debar'd
A capon from his poultry-yard:
Though all good Catholics had spent
A month at least, in keeping Lent."

At last, however, he gets access to the Continent, finds the date within ten days of Easter, and returns forthwith to his lone island dwelling.

"Next day, Palm-Sunday, he began
To preach away, and state his plan
To his poor flock, although 'twas late,
And told of Lent exact the date.
'But brethren never mind,' he said,
'I've still a project in my head,
There's nothing lost, although we've pass'd
The time, we shall come up at last:
And first, ere fasting,' then said he,
'Next Tuesday shall Shrove-Tuesday be,
Observing ancient customs all,
And Wednesday we'll Ash-Wednesday call;
Then three days' penance, and the while
We'll surely fast throughout the isle,
And Sunday, fearing no such thing
As error,—Hallelujah sing."

As the "Ver-Vert" touched at the habits of conventual life and the relaxations of nuns, so is this a pleasant satire upon fasting; and "the Living Lutrin" is a no less happy piece of pleasantry, the gist of which lies in a poor boy scholar's nether garments being patched with some parchment music torn out of the chanter's book, and, on discovery, being turned up over the music-desk (horsing-ways) to have the anthem performed on a great festival day of St. Brice. The critical moral drawn from this trifle is exceedingly pat, and we copy it for the edification of all critics:

"For thee alone, my kind and valed friend,
The product of my lonely Muse I've pen'd;
Far from thee eyes, in cold seclusion, the
Such work a recreation found to be:
'Tis but a whim,—a hasty trifle,—so
From thee, oh let it never farther go.
Yet, if perchance this piece some others see,
Who'll deign to read it,—souls sincere and free,—
Not scrupulously nice, like those who halt
As though in every line they'd find a fault;
These may peruse my humble work awhile,
And peradventure honour with a smile
This plain production, which from pleasure springs
A relaxation light from weightier things.
But as for bigots blind, a tasteless race—
And formalists,—with smooth and double face—
To whom (as they suppose) the task belongs,
With real intense, to criticise my songs,
To heap on everything their foul abuse,
While they themselves, 'tis certain, naught produce;
From such all-cursing dots, I'm bold to state,
I nothing fear, and all their anger wait."

These short passages will suffice to show how Mr. Allen has imitated Gresset.

The Visit, and other Poems. By J. S. Lewis. We sometimes fancy we ought to know something about poetry, good or bad, but we are often staggered both by authors and critics. What we have thought arrant stuff we see others commend, and that highly too; and one of the consequences may be the publication of such compositions as the tiny piece before us. We will not, however, visit *The Visit* "lengthily," but content ourselves with a sample from its prelude. "The poet," so he dubs himself, sets out by exclaiming—

"How shall the Poet wonder,
How shall he weep,
When roused by the last thunder,
He wakes from his long sleep;
And finds himself standing
Midst the crowds of the world,
In their right orders banding,
With pinions unfurled."

As the public could not answer so ticklish a question, he answers it himself, after lamenting about "his wings being all sullied, spotted, tarnished, rent, crooked, drooping, and bent."

"How shall all wonder
When a fresh peal of thunder
Shall summon the great ones of earth,
And the wings of the poets shall spread
Like roses from out of the cup,
Which has gathered their beauty and fragrance up,
And sweep on to God's throne at their head."

So much for his final apotheosis; and, as for his earth-ideas, we quote a few lines on "Love."

"Nature is various but bonneted too;
Although her works are ne'er quite similar,
She always grants to more than one or two
Peculiar qualities which are.
And therefore though the lover may lament,
When from his foud soul is rent,
The spirit which had become a part
Of the spirit of his heart;
Which filled with honey all its cells,
With living springs its deepest wells;
He may not rust away with care,
With the folly of despair;
For such another he may find,
His bleeding wounds to bind,
So that the boughs of his distress,
May bring forth fruits of happiness."

The Martyrs of Carthage. By Mrs. J. B. Webb. 2 vols. Bentley.

A WOEFUL tale of Christian persecutions, sufferings, and constancy, in "the times of old."

SUMMARY.

The Bye-Lanes and Downs of England, with Turf Scenes and Characters. By Sylvanus. Bentley. ONE portion of the volume is descriptive; the other relates to sporting and betting, and reads a melancholy lesson of their so frequent fatal results and almost invariably degrading character. Gambling on the race-ground, like gambling in the funds—and the almost universal gambling in commerce, called "speculating"—is the besetting sin and hardening principle of our country and age. We have only to be thankful that higher thoughts and nobler sympathies also exist to a considerable degree, and leaven the mass of sordid and selfish corruption.

As these chapters, however, nearly all lent their zest to "Bentley's Miscellany," leaving us only some sixty or seventy pages of novelty at the end for comment, we shall not say more than that they adopt the lively tone of the Turf, with specimens of its slang colloquy-ism; give us sketches of numerous patrons of horse-racing, jockeys, legs, &c.; let us into some of the secrets of over-reaching and levanting; and, taken altogether, form one of those light-weight literary runs which serve well for amusement, and out of which sensible advice may be derived, if taken by the young and giddy, and all others who belong to the natural order of Pigeon. We select only one illustration.

"I would emphatically beseech my youthful reader—for it is in the hope of offering a friendly chart, and being really of service to one of these, that I write thus explicitly—to reflect seriously, as many lads, embryo men, can do, previously to his being seen for an instant on even the outskirts

of the Betting Ring, far less entangled in its folds; and to ask himself how, consistent with a position of trust, intellectual or virtuous intercourse, far less a similar connexion in society; or how far conducive to the paths of high and spotless commerce, equally with the higher walks in any of the learned professions or sciences—supposing any of these to be his aim, or, hallowed inspiration! to be the hope of his parents and friends,—is the reputation of being even a 'sporting man,' infinitely less a 'turf,' or 'betting' one, from the scenes and characters we have, we trust with neither an exuberance of 'fustian or thin prosaic,' set before him in the text?

"We assure him that the mere imputation of being thus inclined, even with success, is a stain on character amply sufficient to bar the entrance to any of the paths of life we have specified with the rigidly correct; and that a failure on the turf, to the man of honour and sensibility, leaves an indelible taint and bitterness.

"To the mere dabbler in turf speculation, the small operator and 'backer of horses,' of which class the majority of the ring, or rather its dependencies, is composed, should he continue to pursue the *ignis fatuus*,—save, possibly, in a few instances, quite as rare as with the winners at roulette!—there can be nothing but eventual loss, embarrassment, and misfortune; whilst to the successful, professional turfite, the man who, giving all his attention to the calling, has succeeded in cozening Fortune, and arrived at maturity, I care not who he be, there attaches an odour of the stable, and unmistakable essence of the craft, which must ever render his presence over a virtuous hearth, supposing him to have obtained such admittance, out of place, and ungenial, if it be not deemed ill-omened and repugnant.

"With men, and above all, with women of a pure and domestic tone of mind, and inherent love of household morality, and distaste for the 'flash,' there can be no communion, far less sympathy, with 'betting men,' rendered questionable, if not depraved as their notions must be in the long course of intrigue with their baser brethren, and one-sided traffic, in which we have seen the initiated in turf mysteries matriculate and take honours.

"These old hands are coolness and cunning personified, and might give Faust himself a wrinkle in the art of alchemizing society."

There is a portrait of that patrician and honourable Turfite, Lord George Bentinck, to whom, and to such distinguished characters as the Duke of Rutland and others to whom the healthful sports of the field are recreations not pursuits for gain—Sylvanus pays a just tribute. So long as manliness is valued as a British quality, such men will be esteemed among the foremost in our Race!

The Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage of Great Britain and Ireland for 1850. By C. R. Dod, Esq. Whittaker & Co.

The Parliamentary Companion for 1850. The same FOR eighteen years the public have been indebted to Mr. Dod for the latter work, the well-merited success of which, suggested to him ten years ago to give it an annual companion in the former publication. Now, the two are looked for as necessarily as the return of the season. We feel as if we could not do without them to refer to when any Parliamentary matter turns up to make it desirable to know how Lords or Commons have stood in regard to its antecedents, and are likely to stand in regard to itself; or, when any individual occurrence in these walks of life comes into notice, we find we must fly to Dod for information about it and its co-lateral circumstances. Thus, we truly have, in these volumes, companions of almost daily utility. All official and legislative changes are recorded to the latest date. The condition of the lower house consti-

tuency—the changes of opinion in members—the order of proceedings—the obituary of some, and the promotion of others—the family relations; and, in short, every kind of intelligence connected with the subjects, diligently collected and systematically arranged, pre-eminently entitle these two little books to universal favour.

Railway and Commercial Information. By Samuel Salt. Smith and Son.

WRITTEN by one who fully understands the subject, and the value of his statements, corroborated in their publication, by a firm which so largely and so enterprisingly employs the vast facilities of railway traffic. We ought, before now, to have noticed this very useful production. The statistics of railways are fairly set down in black and white, as the saying is, and obviously for public information and not for speculative purposes or jobbing. In this way the experience of Mr. Salt lays the foundation for practical results, with regard to this extraordinary system which has risen to such a height, and must still rise above the dreams of imagination; but there are, besides, a multitude of co-lateral facts and connected considerations, which render the volume still more deserving of the attention of the mercantile community and the moneyed world.

A Complete and Universal Dictionary of Signals for the Boats of Her Majesty's Fleet, &c. by A. P. Eardley Wilmot, Com., R.N. (Cleaver), does seem entirely to fulfil its title, and to be illustrated with coloured-flags, pendants, and other methods of signaling at sea, so numerous engraved, and so clearly explained, that the little book must be pre-eminently useful to navigation of every description, in yachts, steam-vessels, and merchant-men.

London University Calendar (Taylors) contains the Charters of this Institution, the regulations on which it is conducted, its constituent members, and the Examination Papers for 1849. The generalization and comprehensiveness of the latter, and the character of the questions, give us a better idea of the system than we previously entertained. If properly administered there can be little fault to find.

Three Pamphlets which have just appeared claim our notice. 1. *What is to be done with Turkey?* (Colburn) is the production of an able individual, who has recently passed some time in travelling through the provinces of the empire. He gives an original view of their various religions, race, and other peculiar features, states their existing condition, and what is likely to be their future measures and fate. The information seems to be of great interest to the nations of Europe, and to Turkey itself, which possesses 17 millions of Christian, and only 6 millions of Mahometan, subjects. To place the former on an equality with the latter, the author considers to be the only means to save the Ottoman Porte from dissolution. 2. *British Diplomacy in Greece*, (Smith, Elder, and Co.,) is a bitter diatribe against the British Government, and accuses its employees in Greece, and without circumlocution, of every species of fraud, corruption, and oppression. 3. *Proposal for the Relief of the Nation of 14 millions of Duties of Custom and Excise*, (Richardson.) By deferring long annuities, and operating upon different classes of stock, so as to spread immediate burdens of taxation over the next thirty years, the author contends that his plan would produce the immense advantage he has announced. We are not competent to pronounce an opinion upon it, though we dare say the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be able to do so, when happily restored to health. We see, besides, that wherever a million or two is wanted, here or there, to make up the relief, the author does not scruple to assume the amount out of prospective improvements in trade and revenue.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Feb. 8th.—Professor Cowper, "On the Conway and Menai Tubular Bridges," explained the general principle of the construction of bridges and the principles upon which the above-named wonderful works are constructed. He pronounced the principles to be so entirely novel, that engineers themselves admired them. Critics had questioned their originality, instancing bridges in Switzerland and America. These, however, especially the former, Professor Cowper described to be arch bridges, with covered roadways. Tubes, he said, have been used before—triangular, cylindrical, &c., but on the principle of the bow and string bridge, and not as tubes of "tubular bridges." The peculiarities, proportions, weights, &c. of the Menai bridge were given; also, the ingenious contrivances to provide for the expansion and contraction of the tube itself by heat and cold, and the consequent shiftings in length of the rails; to counteract the great effect of the wind on the tubes; &c. The several points of the lecture were illustrated by diagrams and ingenious models, without which, in a brief space, it would be impossible to convey a complete notion of the interesting details. The principles of "tubular bridges" were stated to be those employed by Nature in cellular structures, and the engineer therefore works without the slightest fear.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 6th.—Sir Charles Lyell in the chair. Read:—"On the Igneous and Volcanic Rocks of the Papal States, and the adjacent parts of Italy." By Sir Roderick I. Murchison, Vice-President. One of the chief objects of the author is to show that nearly all the so-called volcanic rocks of the Papal States, including those between Radicofani and Rome, and in the Campagna, were accumulated under water, and did not issue from true sub-serial volcanoes. The oldest of the tephritic basalts, or lavas, have penetrated and overflowed the tertiary marine marls and sands of sub-Apennine age; and if zeolite were substituted for their prevailing simple mineral leucite, they could not be distinguished from many British trap rocks. The tufts, peperini, and puzzolane, which succeed, also afford unquestionable evidences of having been formed under waters, probably for the most part brackish, or fresh, since no marine shells occur in them; and from the porous and light character of many of them, it is presumed that the waters in which they were re-arranged, were of slight depth. The so-called crater lakes of Bolsena, Bracciano, &c., in and around the Colles Cimmini, all come within the category; in proof of which waterworn pebbles of Apennine limestone are associated with them. During all this condition of things, the Sabine and Volscian hills of Apennine limestone (cretaceous) must have formed the coast of the waters (Soracte being an island), in which volcanic materials having been partially thrown up into the atmosphere, are supposed to have been reaggregated.

Old Travertine.—At, or towards the close of the great volcanic epoch, enormous masses of travertine were accumulated, which, as they repose upon volcanic tufts, and contain nothing but remains of terrestrial plants and animals, indicate that they were formed in the lakes and marshes which prevailed, shortly after the partial elevation and desiccation of the Campagna. Such is the broad tract of rocks around the Lake of Taurus and the Solfatarara, out of which Ancient Rome was, in great measure, built, and also the travertine of certain undulating hills between Ferentino and Val Montone, on the central road to Naples. The plateau of travertine, on which ancient Tibur (Tivoli) was built, must have been elaborated long anterior to the modern era, for pebble beds of Apennine limestone are intercalated in it, and the whole stands out in a bluff escarpment towards the Campagna, where no water-courses now descend from the Apennines. A very

strong contrast is, therefore, drawn between those ancient travertines formed at the expense of the Apennine limestone, when the great volcanic action of this region was in energy or was dying away, and those feeble additions of travertine which have been made by the river Anio since the Temple of the Sybil was built upon the old and ante-historical rock. The author here describes the effect of a great flood of the Anio in 1826, that, carrying away the cliffs of old travertine on which a church and thirty-six houses were situated, transported all the lighter materials down the falls. As, on that occasion, a raft of the church stuck fast in the grotto of the Syren, and, remaining there, is now becoming cemented into the hollow of the rock by the accretion of newly-formed travertine, so he thinks, that if found in after-ages, it might lead antiquarians and geologists to conclude, that the great mass of superjacent and subjacent travertine had been formed after the building of Christian churches. The partial desiccation of the old cascades by the new cut and tunnel through the Apennine limestone have, it is stated, much detracted from the beauty of the scene.

Latian Volcanos.—The only true terrestrial volcano which the author admits may have been in activity, and this only in the very earliest portion of the modern period, is one which burst out in the centre of the Latian, or Alban hills, from the circular and crateriform cavity, called Hannibal's Camp, and the adjacent parasitic craters. The chief crater has a central cone (Monte di Vescovo), is surmounted by a brim of dejections of scoriaceous and volcanic materials, and exhibits *coulées* of basaltic and other lavas (including one called sperone), on the highest point of which (Monte Cavi), about 3,500 feet above the sea, stood the temple of Jupiter Latialis. It is, above all, in the broken down sides of this crater and its parasites (towards Tusculum) that the author traces an analogy to the extinct subserbal volcano of Auvergne; but he believes that the fires burst forth when these Latian Hills had but just emerged from beneath the waters, and when nearly all the Campagna was still submerged, for in the middle of the crater in which Hannibal encamped there is a lacustrine deposit, with shells of *Lymnæ* and *Planorbis*; and, therefore, for ages after its activity, this volcanic crater must have become a lake, which was desiccated long before the time of historical records. In expressing the great obligations of science to Monsignore Medici Spada and Professor Ponzi, of Rome, for the light they have thrown upon the mineral structure of the Latian volcanos, Sir Roderick cannot assent to that part of their view by which the Lakes of Albano and Nemi are also supposed to be craters formed in the atmosphere. Unacquainted with anything resembling them in true atmospheric volcanos, he regards the solid peperino which flanks them, and composes their cliffs, as having been formed under aqueous pressure. Nor can he, because the impressions of grassy vegetables have been found in some of this peperino, admit that it was a mud eruption which flowed upon land; since nothing is more common than that matted vegetable substances should be floated into waters adjacent to a coast, and there become imbedded in subaqueous dejections. Recent, then, as the eruption of the central volcano of the Latian hills is in the geological series, and linked on as it is to the historic era, the very high antiquity of that event, as respects history, is further proved by the fact, that certain minerals peculiar to that volcano, and not occurring in the older rocks of the Papal States, have been found in the quaternary, or post pliocene, marine deposits at Porto D'Anzo, or Antium (25 miles from Monte Cavi), which have been raised up into land since the Mediterranean Sea was inhabited by its present animals.

Rocca Monfina.—This lofty tract, in the kingdom of Naples, lying between Sessa and Teano, so remarkable in history as the seat of the ancient Aurunci, and so striking in its outlines, from the

grandeur of its crater (2½ miles in diameter), is referred by the author exclusively to a subaqueous origin and is supposed to have been formed, like Graham Island or other submarine volcanos, by ejections, which, to a great extent reaching the atmosphere, fell back into the waters and formed successive and surrounding scoriaceous layers. The great distinction between this crater and that of the Latian Hills is, that its centre is now occupied by a mountain of solid trachyte of very ancient appearance (between a porphyry and a greenstone), which, it is contended, could not have been formed under the atmosphere, but must have originated at considerable depths, and have been subsequently heaved up. On this point, indeed, the author begs to dissent from those writers who think that solid trachytes, including the domes of Auvergne could ever have been formed under the mere pressure of the atmosphere; and in all cases where, as at Rocca Monfina, they have so risen as to plug up an ancient crater, whether subaqueous or subserbal, he argues that they must have thrown off a considerable mass of superincumbent materials. The trachytes of Ischia, for example, must all have been of pure submarine origin, since sea-shells alternate with them to the height of upwards of 1,600 English feet.

In conclusion, Sir Roderick indicated to what extent his own observations tended to modify the extreme opinions of those who advocate the elevation crater theory on the one hand, and those who would refer all dejections of quondam volcanic materials which dip away excentrically from a central dome or cavity, to the same mode of formation as that of existing volcanos. He thinks that the cirques and valleys of elevation in the sedimentary rocks of the British Isles illustrate how craters of elevation, strictly so called, may have been produced, and he explains how, in the instances of Woolhope and Dudley, the igneous matter has found vent on the edges of the deposits, whilst the repressed heat and intumescence accompanying its evolution have raised up their centres so as to produce the ellipses and cirques in question. In like manner it is inferred, that whenever igneous dejections have been spread out by currents over very large areas in the bottoms of seas and far removed from their sources of eruption, subsequent upheavals from beneath, whether accompanied by the outburst of fresh igneous matter or not, may have so arranged their former volcanic materials as to give them such a shape as will entitle them to the name of craters of elevation.

Gell's map of the country around ancient Rome, coloured geologically by the author, and a beautiful MSS. map of the Latian volcanos, by Ponzi, were exhibited, in addition to plans and sections of Rocca Monfina, Tivoli, &c. Reference was made to the works of Pareto, Pilla, Scacchi, and other Italian geologists, as well as of Dr. Daubeny, especially his description of Rocca Monfina.

THE NEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

CAPTAIN AUSTIN, who was first-lieutenant of the "Fury" when lost in Parry's second voyage, is most actively engaged in hastening every preparation for proceeding in command of the North-Western Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin and his gallant comrades. The expedition, which Mr. John Barrow, of the Admiralty, worthily following the example of his father, is strenuously aiding, so as to render it every way efficient, will, it is stated consist of four vessels—two sailing, and two small steamers, having a light draft of water, and being fitted with screw-propellers. Other applications, of various sorts, have been proposed, and are under the consideration of experienced officers. A number of officers have volunteered their services to take part in this interesting voyage. Our readers are aware that the course to be pursued is by Davis's Straits, Lancaster Sound, and Barrow's Straits, to Melville Island, and neighbouring places. The vessels

will be fitted out at Woolwich, under the immediate inspection of the gallant officer appointed to command them.

LITERARY AND LEARNED. SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Feb. 7th.—Mr. Collier in the chair. Mr. Morgan exhibited specimens of iron-work, in daggers, boxes, &c., of the 17th century. Mr. Collier communicated observations on Richard Hackluyt, accompanied by transcripts of two letters written by him from Paris to Sir Francis Walsingham. One, on the subject of the establishment of a lecture at Oxford; the other, on the encouragement of discoveries in the New World. Mr. Cooper contributed a note on the opening of some tumuli in Sussex, in which were found many specimens of the *Achia pomatia*, a shell, supposed by current opinion to have been brought into England, for medicinal purposes, by Sir Kenelm Digby. Over the urns were found the skeletons of two cats, which Mr. Cooper supposed had been placed there by the friends of the deceased. Mr. Akerman remarked that, with great deference to Mr. Cooper, he did not think he was right in his conclusion, that the skeletons of the cats were placed there *designedly*. He had often found the skeletons of rats, mice, weasels, martins, &c. in tumuli, but he believed them to be the remains of those creatures which had made their burrows in the newly-formed grave. The fact that such relics often abound in graves made in the *hard chalk*, he said, favours this conjecture, as it is well known that wild animals burrow in the loosest earth, and these places would readily afford such means of shelter in a neighbourhood the soil of which is rocky, and, to them, impenetrable. In cases where the bodies were interred entire, as in the later Anglo-Saxon tumuli, these creatures might be attracted to the spot by the effluvia arising from the decomposition of animal matter.

Feb. 14th.—Mr. Bruce, Treasurer, in the chair.—Sir Henry Dryden communicated an account of the discovery, at Marston-hill, Northamptonshire, of an extensive ancient burial-place, in which were exhumed a large number of human skeletons, interspersed with urns containing burnt bones, also the skeleton of a horse, with the bridle-bit still preserved. Weapons in iron, such as spears and javelins, and knives, were found, but no swords; there were also the umbos of shields of circular shape. The personal ornaments were abundant; the most remarkable of these were fibulae, circular, and spade-shaped, one of which, of great beauty, has been gilt. There were also beads of a variety of shapes and material, and a drilled brass coin of Carausius, which had been evidently worn as an ornament. Sir Henry Dryden having given a very detailed report of the discovery, concluded by assigning reasons for considering the remains Romano-British. Mr. Roach Smith (through whom the paper had been transmitted to the Society) concurred with Sir Henry on the points of difference presented by these remains to analogous deposits in Kent and in other parts of England; but he stated his belief that this comparison must be conclusive in deciding them to be Anglo-Saxon of an early date; and he remarked on the peculiar interest attached to the Northamptonshire remains in the fact that they differed considerably from those in Kent, the former belonging to the Mercians, the latter to the Jutes, distinct Saxon tribes. Sir H. Dryden very properly terms the fibulae *spade-shaped* instead of *cruciform*, which conveys a notion of the influence of Christianity, to which almost every fact obtained from these burial-places is opposed. The burial of the war-horse* by the side of the German

chieftain is mentioned by Tacitus; and the custom seems to have prevailed for some time after the Saxons had settled down in Britain. Mr. Akerman made some observations on the relations between the German God Wotan and the Roman Mercury. It was then announced from the chair that Major Rawlinson's exhibition of Assyrian antiquities would take place next Thursday, the 21st February.

ARCHAEOLOGY.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

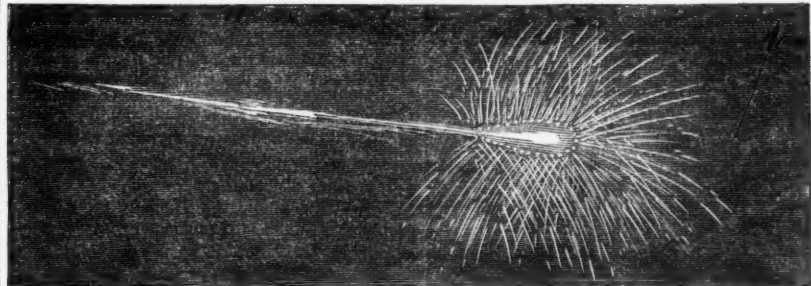
Public Meeting, Feb. 8th.—Mr. Yewd read a paper "On the Mediæval and Arabic (so called) Numerals," illustrated by diagrams, showing, at one view, the various forms of characters used in the middle ages, arranged according to their dates; and he also entered into a lengthened comparison of these characters, with those used in the Arabic, Sanscrit, Hindoostanee, and Ancient Egyptian languages. He likewise noticed the great similarity in the sound of the names of some of the numerals in the Arabic and Sanscrit, and those used in the Latin, Greek, French, and English tongues. Mr. Lynch communicated a description of remains of the Ancient Church of the Knights Templars and other early buildings, situated behind the house of Mr. Charles Griffith, near Middle Row, Holborn, and exhibited one of five antique green

glass flasks found in excavating on the site. Dr. A. Gund exhibited a drawing of a curious doorway in the south wall of Little Langford Church, Wilts; and Messrs. Chaffers and Burdett exhibited specimens of a peculiar description of needlework which prevailed during a limited period (commencement of 17th century), and not mentioned by Lady Wilton, or in any other works on the subject. Mr. Egan read an elaborate paper "On the Antiquity and Primitive Form of the Harp," illustrated by drawings from the Egyptian tombs and other sources, and the author concluded from these representations, as well as from descriptions contained in early writings, that the primitive form of this instrument was derived from that of the bow, and not from the triangular shape of the Greek delta, as asserted by St. Jerome. This view he further supported by quotations from Homer, alluding to the twanging of the bowstring. Mr. Planche made some *visa voce* remarks on metal heraldic badges exhibited by several members, and which, he supposed, formed part of the furniture of horse-harness. Mr. Jessop communicated an account of a Greek altar in his possession, procured from the ruins of a Temple of Minerva at Athens. It is dedicated to Hercules. Mr. J. supposes, from the irregular manner in which the inscription is cut, that it cannot be assigned to an earlier date than that of the Christian era.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE METEOR.

MANY accounts of this phenomenon have appeared in the newspapers. In some instances, thunder, or a noise resembling thunder, was heard, in others no sound.—Ed. L. G.



Eltham, Feb. 12, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—As I was riding last evening, about 20 minutes before 11, from Blackheath towards Lee Green, sitting backwards, I observed high up, towards the N.W., a most extraordinary and brilliant meteor, moving towards the S.E., but not for a great distance, and so slowly, that I could observe its form, which was that of a pendant jewel of reddish coruscating light, having scalloped edges, and surrounded by an atmosphere of blue light, so vivid as to illuminate the whole scene below. It lasted about ten seconds, and then suddenly disappeared.—I remain, &c.,

GEO. R. CORNER.

THE SNOW IN GREECE.

Athens, 28th January, 1850.

AMONG the political convulsions by which Greece has been attacked by one of the *Puissances*, *soi-disant bienfaitrices*, a snow-storm, unequalled in violence within the memory of man, overwhelmed the whole country—nor, it would appear, has any circumstance equally destructive occurred since the deluge in which Pyrrha and Deucalion played so eminent a part. It commenced on the night of Wednesday, and continued during part of Thursday, the 23rd and 24th January: the elements, as it were, rising up in anger against the violence of the British Secretary of State and his man in possession—the Admiral. The thermometer fell in the town of Athens to 25 deg. Fahrenheit, the oranges were frozen to the core on the trees in the gardens, and the mandarins could be broken to pieces with a hammer. Thousands of sheep perished in Attica, so suddenly did the storm come on, and even the shepherds were surprised, and many were lost in the storm. The want of sheds, which the mildness of the climate renders generally unnecessary, has caused a great increase in point of loss. In Attica, the loss is said to amount to a fourth of the total number of sheep in Attica alone; and in Northern Greece, it is to be presumed—for, as yet, we have no information—that the loss has been considerably greater: the Islands alone have escaped. Under these circumstances, should the English minister's blockade continue, there is a fair chance of nearly a million of innocent people being starved, and the whole nation ruined beyond hope of recovery. Is this "speedy execution," we ask, the way to obtain payment of those claims which are legitimately due—those of the interest and sinking fund of the debt? Will the British public permit, under such distressing circumstances, a supposed clause to be vindictively pressed, after the fashion of a hardhearted landlord, who—having at least right, or will, or might, on his side—sells the wretched bed from under his pauper tenant in satisfaction for his claims? [The political finale is our correspondent's, and admitted into our columns only on the ground that we did not feel at liberty to avail ourselves of one portion of the communication, and reject another.—Ed. L. G.]

*It is very seldom that witweness such an intelligent arrangement and classification of ancient remains as in this report of Sir H. Dryden's. We perceive by Wetton's Guide-Book to Northampton, page 57, that at Mr. Baker's sale, a most valuable collection of Saxon remains, very similar to those of Marston Hill, was bought by Sir H. Dryden, to prevent their being dispersed out of the county; we believe they still remain unpublished.—Ed. L. G.]

FINE ARTS.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.—(No. 2.)

We resume our categorical notice of such works as are so far within the range of vision that we are able to examine, and offer an opinion upon them.

No. 33. Scene in North Holland, and 183, Loch Fine, *W. A. Knell*, are very favourable examples of the artist's taste and graphic talent. The first and larger subject takes a high place in natural landscape execution, and the last is a very sweet little production.

No. 39. The Falls of Loupen, *H. C. Selous*, embodies the striking features of the scene in a free, broad style; but 388 is of quite another genus, viz., Guttenberg showing his Wife his First Experiment in Printing from Moveable Types. The three figures are carefully painted, and the costumes also executed with finish and effect. What we miss is earnestness in the characters. There is no enthusiasm—no surprise. That which was to enlighten the world is almost still-born. A man could not show his wife a pebble he had found with less spirit, nor his lady look at it with more apathy. As warm worshippers of Moveable Types, we cannot pass this coldness without animadversion, nor be contented with a very pretty picture.

No. 64. The Plays of Shakspeare, *J. Gilbert*, is a somewhat fantastic grouping of a number of Shakspeare's characters, which are, however, cleverly arranged, and sustain their parts in a dramatic enough, though conventional, manner. Henry VIII. and Wolsey are conspicuous, Lear and Mad Tom as of the stage, Hamlet rather obscure, and Ophelia no beauty; and the "Midsummer Night's Dream" pleasing and poetical, in a not uncommon style. Altogether, a class picture of merit.

No. 46. Youthful Fortune-telling, and No. 78, Girl with Water Cresses, *E. U. Eddis*. Though having something of an unfinished appearance, the last is an attractive subject, and is treated in a simple and natural manner. As we have no Inskip in the gallery this year, we must welcome such performances as Mr. Eddis's, which, partaking of that popular artist's style, are not without a pleasing character of their own.

No. 113. Peter Boats, *T. S. Robins*, 178. San Lorenzo, 461. Brill, on the Meuse, are three various and ably-painted landscapes, in which the features of champagne and water, shipping and architecture are truly represented, and the skies and perspective skilfully combined in unison with them.

No. 128. In the Forest of Arden, *F. H. Henshaw*, is a large piece, in which we recognise some of the touch we have admired in Constable. It does no discredit to his school.

No. 138. The Novice, *Alex. Johnston*, 434. Scotch Lass. We do not think the artist so happy in these subjects as we have seen him in others. The first lacks the expression of the poetry quoted, though an affecting picture; and the last is too theatrical for so simple an incident.

No. 139. The Hungarian Sutler, *J. Zeitter*. This, and No. 121, A Hungarian Insurgent, are, we presume, accurately characteristic of the country so peculiarly interesting at this period; and, therefore, like Mr. Jones's pair (see last *Gazette*), acceptable to any exhibition.

No. 140. Dover, *J. Holland*, is an extravaganza. Even had it Turner's harmonies we could not reconcile it to our ideas of any reality. These are wild exercises of the pencil, and are devoid of the great quality of truth. No. 211, by the same, S. Marco, in despite of some mistaken red patch-work (for effect), is a much more genuine work; and 426, Walmer Castle, as plain a fact as Dover is a fiction.

No. 161. The Syrens, *A. J. Woolmer*, is a singular performance, in which the action does not perceptibly tell the story of the Syren charms. The fatal songstresses seem to be (for they are not

near the eye) loitering and enjoying themselves like bathing nymphs, but as for the sailors in the distance being in danger from them, we utterly disbelieve it. Notwithstanding which criticism, there is a good deal of beauty in these enchantresses, and the same artist has a very agreeable picture in No. 67, A Romp in the Vineyard.

No. 198. A Golden Moment, *F. Danby*. A remarkable effect, or rather gradation of effects, of a superb sunset on wood and water. Were there refreshments sold at the top of the stairs where you light upon it, you would call for an ice. It is a fine piece of manipulation upon a subject of imagination, and displays the artist's powers over atmosphere, and its reflection on material objects. The gleaming through the trees contrasted with the cool water below, gliding into shade, and only delicately broken by the ripple of aquatic birds, are nature, and art, and poetry.

No. 199. Cranmer Before the Privy Council, *E. B. Morris*, deserves praise as one of the few historical efforts in the exhibition.

No. 205. Lance Reproving his Dog; left unfinished by the late *Sir A. W. Calcott*, completed by *J. C. Horsley*, is interesting from the circumstances, and tells the anecdote humourously, but "Why is the dog blind of an eye?" We know no Shaksperian authority for that, and we do not think that either Mr. Collier or Mr. Halliwell would allow it.

No. 213. Chiavara, *G. E. Hering*, is a very nice composition, and with No. 196, Blenheim, and No. 228, Porto Fesano, fully sustain the reputation of a very pleasing painter. The last is on a large scale, and a production that does honour to his pencil.

No. 214. The Desert Steed, *C. Tschaggeny*. We are not surprised that the Jockey Club have refused to accept the Pasha of Egypt's challenge for a sweepstakes in Africa. It is evident that an Arab like this would run even an Eclipse hard. It is a fine, showy animal, and on a ground, with accessories, consistently making it a work of pictorial art.

No. 221. The Disputed Point, *R. Brandard*, is a genre subject fairly treated; and, with a Welsh Cottage Interior, No. 101, gives proof of a clever eye and hand for the familiar and comic.

No. 232. Luna, *J. G. Naish*, brings back to us Howard in his better days. A small, circular composition, is full of grace and sentiment, sweetly composed, and pleasing in tone.

No. 241. A Black Stream, *J. Stark*, together with No. 141, Eel Fishery on the Thames, and No. 303, Marlborough Forest, make a trio, all pleasant instances of the artist's natural style.

No. 244. Naughty Pussy has Killed Poor Robin, *T. A. Woolnoth*. A pretty little bit for the young folks.

No. 245. The Frozen Loch, *C. Branwhite*, and No. 315, the Frozen Mill, especially the latter, are favourable specimens of the artist's acknowledged skill in winter pieces. No. 296, The Environs of an Ancient Garden, is of another class, and clever, but rather patchy.

No. 248. Interior of the Royal Chapel, Hampton Court, *J. D. Wingfield*, is the most ambitious of the artist's interiors and terrace-buildings, and worthily takes the lead. Correct outline and artistical perspective are rendered more striking by the introduction of artificial lights, and a rich and varied glow of colour consequent thereon.

No. 258. Detaining a Customer, *R. McInnes*. A capital morsel of drollery. The cobbler intent on his fiddling, whilst his girl customer may do as she likes.

No. 263. The Cottage Girl. A very pretty study from nature, and agreeable to nature, by *Miss M. Read*. No. 343. The Youthful Student, also does credit to the lady's feeling for the art, and easel.

No. 269. The Gretna, *J. C. Bentley*, is one of the finest landscapes in the Gallery. A delightful subject, treated as it ought to be.

No. 274. Bamboro' Castle, *J. Wilson*, and No. 428, are two pieces of the same order, and evincing similar abilities in the artist.

No. 278. Jeanie Deans and the Laird of Dumbiedikes, *A. Fraser*, is a characteristic illustration for the Heart of Midlothian, and of Scottish subjects which the artist knows so well how to handle in a national way. His No. 261, A Shepherd Saying Grace, is another example of the same talent in small compass, but replete with feeling.

No. 279. Lady Macbeth, *F. T. Dicksee*, is an awful figure, with stone eyes.

No. 282. The Rival's Wedding, *H. M. Anthony*, is freely executed, and contrasts the rivalry well with the gaiety at the church door and the disappointment on the other side of the picture.

No. 290. Our Saviour after the Temptation, *Sir George Hayter*. The sacred subject treated in a manner which might suggest an old Italian master. The discomfiture of Satan and the simple dignity of the Saviour, are well expressed, and the group of ministering angels affords an opportunity for graceful composition and rich colouring.

No. 297. Kirby Lonsdale, as well as 57, Farm Evening, and 314, A Westmoreland Trout Stream, are all grateful evidences how much the charms of nature are felt by *H. Jutsum*, and how sweetly he can transfer them to his canvass.

No. 301. Don Quixote and Sancho Panza in Pedro's Hut, *G. Cole*, is a caricature which almost makes one laugh.

No. 305. Mouth of the Conway, *A. Clint*, is a delightful calm, of which Calcott might have borne the blame without a word of censure.

No. 311 Myrrha, *H. O'Neil*. A clever and promising production; the arm appears to be ill drawn, but there are parts of much merit, and the whole pleases us much.

We reserve another chapter for the South Room in numerical rotation.*

PANORAMA OF THE POLAR REGIONS.

WHEN expeditions are departing for these regions, and our hopes and fears are so intensely riveted on the result, nothing can be more interesting to the public than an exhibition like this. The picture is from the drawings of Lieut. Browne, of the "Enterprise," as claimed from piracy by him in a letter to the *Literary Gazette*, and is indeed, on one side, the Winter, that of desolation, and on the other, Summer, a glow without heat. The terrible and fantastic icebergs, the dreariness of the whole scene, and the Sunshine and Aurora appearing only as if to mock the sterility and utter coldness of the world, fill the mind with anxious, almost painful emotions. We think gratefully of Ross and Bird, and those who escaped with them from the awful perils of their situation; and we pray that Franklin and his brave companions may yet be saved from these savage horrors. The artist has done every thing for his subject, and it ought to, and no doubt will, attract the public as the needle to the Pole!

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS. Mr. SIDNEY SMIRKE in the chair. Her Majesty's Gold Medal was announced, in a Minute of the Council, to have been awarded to Mr. Barry, for his great ability in the design and execution of public buildings. The award was unanimously approved; but a discussion took place, on the suggestion of Mr. Fowler, that the ordinary members of the Institute should have a voice, in common with the Council, in conferring this honour. The Soane medalion† and the Institute medal‡ were not awarded, in consequence of the want of merit among the competitors.

Mr. Angell read a biographical paper on the

* In our notice of last week, p. 112, col. 1, line 6, for last read best, in the remarks on Mr. Frost's Masadora. The error makes the passage unintelligible.

† Design for a Parish Church.

‡ On the Construction of Fire-proof or other Floor.

genius and works of Giacomo Barozzi da Vinci, whom he considered the purest and most graceful architect of Italy. He flourished in the middle of the 16th century, and executed works for Francis I. in France, from which Mr. Angell traced, and to which he attributed the merits of, the existing French School. He was also the author of numerous great works in Italy; and was consulted on the most important in Spain and elsewhere. Upon the details and principal varieties in the styles of many of these Mr. Angell dilated; and the paper was eulogized in the warmest terms by some of our distinguished architects who were present at the reading.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE. FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Thursday.

THE Carnival has given up the ghost, and dreary Lent has come upon us. In these days of change and transition, the Carnival has not, more than other institutions of a graver and more valuable character, been able to maintain its ground. Its out-door tomfoolery has entirely departed; its in-door vagaries are few and far between and grimly dull; its famous *joirs gras* present nothing more than crowds of people on the Boulevards, gaping at a few dirty boys blowing cow-horns and thumping drums; even the time-honoured custom of promenading a fat bull about the streets in a splendid procession of bands of music, waving banners, triumphal cars, horsemen and footmen in costumes of every age and every clime, has been abandoned: all has gone, except the masked balls, and these have become only huge tumultuous assemblages of people of both sexes, who fondly indulge in the delusion that it is amusing to hoot, and yell, and dance—frantic as madmen—or to stalk solemnly about the *foyer*, and under pretence of intrigue—intrigue, bless the mark!—perpetrate such horrid stupidities as—*Gentleman*: "I know you, beautiful mask!" *Lady*: "Hold your tongue, you ugly fool!" *Gentleman*: "Deign, oh Queen of Beauty, to accept the homage of my heart and a glass of punch!" *Lady*: "Give me the punch, my friend, and keep your heart!"

Apropos of I know not what, two of our daily journals recently got into some controversy about sorcerers, and Pélletan, one of the ablest reviewers of the Parisian press, has taken advantage thereof to publish a series of articles on the horrible persecution to which alleged sorcerers were subjected in former times in this country. He quotes many facts from old French writers, which would, I am sure, be new to the great majority of English readers—even to those who may have made demonology their peculiar study. Another literary man shows that animals and insects, as well as men and women, were condemned by wholesale in the good old times, on suspicion of being possessed by the devil. Thus, in 1530, the country around the city of Autun was infested with rats, and the ecclesiastical authorities gravely took legal proceedings against them. First of all, the rats were solemnly cited to appear before the Ecclesiastical tribunal, but, like Glendower's spirits of the vasty deep, they did not come. They were accordingly formally declared in default, an advocate was named to appear on their behalf, the public prosecutor, on the day appointed, set forth the charge against them (that of devastating the cornfields and vineyards), their advocate made the best defence he could, the ecclesiastical judges seriously deliberated, and at length gave judgment declaring the rats under the influence of the Evil One, and condemning them to be—excommunicated! and they were excommunicated accordingly. This absurd trial, it seems, was conducted with all the elaborate forms and solemnity employed in the most important cases between man and man. At Valence, moreover, so late as 1585, the grand vicar of the diocese prosecuted slugs in a similar way, and

had them excommunicated. Indeed, prosecutions of this kind were so common in France, that there exist among the old law papers forms of proceeding and pleading *pro* and *con*, drawn up by one of the most renowned advocates of the day.

The attention of our *savans* has lately been turned to the art of breeding fish; and, from the experiments they have made, they entertain hopes that they can make it—what it was under the Romans of old—interesting in a scientific point of view, and important in increasing the food of the people. It is in the production of eels and trouts that the experiments have been most strikingly successful. With respect to the latter, for example, M. Lefevre de Vaugouard declares that he has discovered the means of artificially fecundating the spawn, and that he is able, from the spawn of one single female, to produce an immense quantity of fish. M. Coste, of the College de France, has experimented on eels. He has had brought to Paris a quantity of the animalcules, which, at the end of March or beginning of April every year, suddenly arise in immense masses at the mouths of rivers, particularly of the Orne, near Caen. This matter is, it appears, often dragged out of the river by the peasants to cast on the land; but M. Coste has ascertained that it is from it that eels are produced, or rather that it is itself a mass of eels in the earliest stage of existence; and that, if left untouched, these eels would ascend the rivers and canals. Out of a portion of this matter, called by the peasantry, the *montée*, M. Coste has succeeded in breeding a promising and flourishing family of eels, and he calculates that, at the end of a few years, each of them will be worth in the market from 6fr. to 8fr. I have not before me, at this moment, the necessary information to attempt a detailed description of the experiments of either the two gentlemen referred to; but I have said enough to draw attention to the matter. It need scarcely be observed that, if nothing should occur to baffle the expectations of the *savans*, the production of eels and trouts will become an important branch of commerce, and will enable water courses, ponds, lakes, and marshes, which are now useless, and often pestilential, to be turned to profitable account.

The French are continuing to display very great interest with respect to the exploration of the interior of Africa; and, from the efforts they, as well as the English, are making or proposing, there is good reason to hope that, before many years shall have elapsed, the whole of that vast burning continent will be known to us as well at least as the central parts of South America. The newspapers have, within the last few days, announced that M. Hecquart, an officer of the regiment of spahis, had, when the last accounts from the French possessions on the western coast of Africa came away, reached Akba, on an expedition to Sego, and eventually to Timbuctoo. If successful, his intention was not to retrace his steps, but to endeavour to arrive at Algiers. The journey was to be made on foot, and the enterprising young soldier had with him in the shape of luggage only a staff and a wallet, a compass, a thermometer, and some rolls of parchment on which to inscribe his observations. The authorities had taken all possible precautions for his safety, and had promised large rewards to a caravan of the tribe of Bambaros, who were to act as his guides in the event of their reaching Sego and Timbuctoo, and larger still if they should succeed in arriving at Algiers. The French authorities of the Grand Bassam had, moreover, taken the precaution of detaining the chief of the Bambaros as a hostage. M. Bonet Willaumez, commandant of the French station at the Grand Bassam, himself a noted African explorer, had superintended all the details of the expedition so far as they could be planned before hand.

The privilege accorded to Mr. Lumley, of giving concerts in the *Conservatoire*, continues to cause

a good deal of splutter in the musical world, and in a certain portion of the press. The grand objection against Mr. Lumley is that, as a foreigner, he is not entitled to the gratuitous use of a saloon in a public building, in which for years past a society of French musicians have been allowed to give concerts. But, apart from the miserable narrow-mindedness of such a plea, it is stupidly absurd, in presence of the fact that the operas of Meyerbeer, a foreigner, like Mr. Lumley, are allowed to be performed in the first theatre of France, which receives many thousand pounds annually as subvention from the public treasury.

At Dresden, the *Prophet* was represented on 30th January, with immense success. The orchestra of that theatre is, it appears, one of the best in Germany, and its tenor, M. Tichabseeck, is the first singer in his line. Meyerbeer himself superintended the bringing out of the piece. The enthusiasm of the audience was thoroughly German in its heartiness, and nearly overwhelmed the great composer and the principal performers, and even went to the length of compelling the scene-painter to come on the stage to be shouted at. The King, who was present, warmly complimented M. Meyerbeer, and made him a Knight of the Order of Merit. At Hamburg, the *Prophet* is being performed amidst vast enthusiasm. Tomorrow (Friday) it is to be brought out at Vienna, under the personal direction of Meyerbeer. In a few weeks it is to be produced at Berlin, with Madame Viardot in the character she has created in Paris.

The publication of Chateaubriand's *Memoirs* has been resumed in the *Presse*, but the public continues to display most profound indifference to them. Poor Chateaubriand! He fondly calculated that his autobiography would astonish, dazzle, and delight, not only his own country, but all Europe—not Europe alone, but the whole civilised world: and accordingly he attached to it an importance greater perhaps than author—with all an author's vanity—ever before attached to the production of his pen—as great almost as the literary world would ascribe to the preservation from destruction of the works of Homer or Skakspere; and now—such example of the utter nothingness of human pride!—the public receives it with contempt, and not only reads it not, but thinks it an infernal bore! This, no doubt, is owing in some degree to the tremendous revolutionary events which have convulsed France and Europe, and have turned away public attention from literary matters; but assuredly that it is owing principally to the disgust, caused by the inflated vanity, which marks every page—to the absence of useful information, or novel, or striking descriptions of men and things—and to the dismal twaddle which fills chapter after chapter. If Chateaubriand had any real friends they would, in spite of his will, suppress the memoirs.

Of late, numerous quaint old paintings have accidentally been discovered in churches in Paris and different parts of the country, after having been buried for centuries under coats of white-wash or plaster. Only the other day, in the cathedral of Clermont Ferrand, a fine fresco, dates from the 14th century, and representing Christ crucified, with St. John and the Virgin Mary at the foot of the cross, was brought to light. These discoveries have, I hear, caused the Government to take measures for having all the cathedrals and churches of France minutely examined, as it is considered probable that there are an immense number of mural paintings still in existence, though all trace is lost of them beneath the white-wash of barbarians. In the early ages, France was celebrated for its superior executions of mural paintings in religious edifices, and in some of the churches of Paris—St. Germain d'Auxerrois especially. Attempts have recently been made with success to revive the art.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, 1851.

We rejoice to see a meeting called for Westminster on Thursday next, the requisition for which is so powerfully signed that the results cannot fail to add a large amount to the subscription.

Another active accessory step, which cannot but be very productive, has been the address of a circular letter, on the part of the Royal Commissioners, and signed by their Secretaries, Mr. Scott Russell and Mr. Northcote, to, we should imagine, almost every individual whose name appears in the Court Calendar or Blue Book for London. There is enclosed the form for a subscription, conveniently printed, and a copy of the resolution, in which the Royal Commissioners so civilly snubbed the Executive and annulled their jobbing contract for carrying on the Prince's national design by private speculation. The Universities are also taking up the subscription.

Another meeting of the Royal Commissioners, presided over by Prince Albert, sat above two hours on Thursday; showing how much H. R. H. has the success of the design at heart. We regret to see that a motion of Mr. Lott's, for a grant of 1,000l. from the City of London, was postponed. If the City (which must benefit so much by the multitude attracted to the exhibition) turns the cold shoulder on it, and waits to see what the prospects are elsewhere, it must operate as a very bad and discouraging example.

THE DRAMA.

Lyceum.—Mr. Planche's popular drama of *Charles XII.* has been revived at this theatre, Mr. Charles Matthews playing the *King*, Mr. Harley his original part, and Mr. Frank Matthews, with great success, the character originally played by *Liston*. Miss St. George, who is fast rising into popularity with the audience, was the *Eudiga*. *The Island of Jewels* continues one of the most triumphant careers of success ever known. The eye cannot tire of the beautiful effects it presents.

Sadlers Wells.—The new play of *Retribution*, brought out here on Monday evening, is by a favourite member of the company, Mr. George Bennett, already known to the public as an author, though not as a dramatist. The piece is less strictly "legitimate" than we are accustomed to see at this theatre, owing more to situation and plot than to its language or the development of character. It is, however, elegantly written, with, perhaps, too great a tendency towards an excess of imagery in some parts. The story is laid in the time of Charles I., and the political antagonism of cavalier and roundhead enters into the construction of the plot, which is complicated and carefully worked out. The chief situations arise from the machinations of a roundhead knight to marry his sickly son to a young lady, daughter of a cavalier, his neighbour and friend; she, on her part, being in love with a founding, brought up in her father's house, and whom, by the false statements of the roundhead, she is in the progress of the piece made to believe to be her brother. He is, however, the son of a knight, who is expatriated in consequence of having, under the influence of falsely-grounded jealousy, killed his wife, and who appears through the play disguised as a soldier, and the agent of the plotting villain. The situations which arise from this state of affairs are extremely interesting and distributed most artistically; our more ambitious writers of five act plays might learn from their effect upon the audience how necessary such are to dramatic success. The chief novelty of character is that of the sickly son, whose gentleness of disposition and truthful affection are made use of by his father for the furtherance of his plans, and who dies at the climax of the play. This part was played with great delicacy and feeling by Mr. Dickenson. Miss Glynn, as the

heroine, laboured under the disadvantage of having to appear under the influence of feelings which the audience knew to arise entirely from a misunderstanding, but nevertheless, gave an air of great tragic dignity and pathos to her part. Mr. Bennett played the Roundhead with care and judgment, and Mr. Phelps had one of those rough soldiers to portray, which no one on the stage can personate with such effect. In the great situation at the end of the third act, his acting was very fine, and caused the ill-timed honour of a call before the curtain during the progress on the piece,—a compliment which, though if ever to be tolerated, was on this occasion deserved, is fatal to anything like stage illusion. One of the situations in the piece was evidently suggested by a scene in the *Tour de Nesle*. The success of the piece was most complete.

VARIETIES.

Industrial Exhibition Corrigenda and Addenda.

—We did not observe, in the "Variety" in our last *Gazette*, p. 116, col. 1, that the writer had not noticed the name of Mr. Gott among the Royal Commissioners in a preceding article. His wits must have been wool-gathering, for, according to Mr. Cole's synopsis, Mr. Gott is (and, we are told, very fitly) to represent Wool. A correspondent rates us for an incorrect quotation of the old ballad (p. 114), and declares the true reading to be—

"Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he,
And he called for his pipe, and he called for his glass,
And he called for his fiddlers three;
And every fiddler had a fine fiddle,
And a very fine fiddle had he.
On which, when called upon for a tune,
He played Felix Summerley:
Oh! there's none so rare as can compare with Felix Summerley."

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

The King Alfred Jubilation.—The jubilee edition of the Royal Alfred's works, promised at the Wantage military festival, is said to be in preparation, under the direction of able Saxon scholars and other distinguished literati.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Abbott's Mary Queen of Scots, 18mo, bds, 6d, cloth, 1s.
Aguilar's (Grace) Woman's Friendship, 12mo, cloth, 6s 6d.
Aiken (P. F.) on War, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
Arnold's (Rev. T. K.) First Verse Book, 4th ed, 12mo, cloth.
Ash's (Edward) Expository Notes and Comments on the New Testament, 3 vols, 12mo, cloth, 21s.
Atkinson's Law and Practice of County Courts, 12mo, 15s.
Bakewell's Philosophical Conversations, 3rd edition, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
Balfour's Women of Scripture, 2nd ed, 12mo, cloth, 3s 6d.
Beauties of Herbert, square cloth, 2s 6d.
Bonar's Morning of Joy, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
Brewer's (Dr.) Book-keeping by Double Entry, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
Key to ditto, 2s.
Churchman's Manual, 2nd edition, 32mo, cloth, 3s 6d.
Colquhoun's (Lady) Memoirs, 2nd edition, 8vo, cloth, 7s 6d.
Crayon's (G.) Tales of a Traveller, 8vo, cloth, 18s.
Cumming's (Dr.) Thanksgiving Exposition of 103rd Psalm, 32mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Dan Daisy: or, Lady and Sweep, 12mo, cloth, 2s 6d.
Educational Outlines, 8vo, cloth, 4s.
Edgeworth's Moral Tales, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
Foster's (B. F.) Double Entry Elucidated, 4th edition, 4to, cloth, 7s 6d.
Fox's Book of Martyrs, 8vo, cloth, 12s 6d.
Fysh's (Rev. F.) Lyrical Literal Version of Psalms, vol I, 12mo, cloth, 4s 6d.
Girdlestone's (Rev. C.) Old Testament, with Commentary, re-issue, vol. I, 12s.
Gaizot's History of the English Revolution, 4s.
Hodde's Sketches at Police Court, 12mo, 2s 6d.
Jerusalem Remembrancer, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
Johnson's Works, 2 vols, 8vo, cloth, 15s.
Journal of Design, vol II, 8vo, cloth, 7s 6d.
Keightley's Fairy Mythology, 2 vols, 12mo, 10s.
Lays of Past Days, 12mo, cloth, 7s.
Lewis' Chess-Board Companion, 18mo, 1s 6d.
Long and Porter's Geography of Great Britain, cloth, 7s 6d.
Low's Catalogue, 1849, 8vo, sewed, 2s.
Luther on Galatians, 8vo, cloth, new edition, 7s.
McCauley's (Rev. A.) Thoughts on Rationalism, 12mo, cloth, 2s 6d.
Miller's (Dr. J.) Pathology of the Kidneys, 8vo, cloth, 6s.
More's (H.) Tracts, 3 vols, 12mo, 10s 6d.
Utopia, 12mo, 2s 6d.
Morgan's (Rev. Dr.) Sabbath-School Lessons, 12mo, cloth, 2s 6d.
Phillips' Familiar Cyclopædia, 18mo, cloth, 5s.

Prize Essays on Literary and Scientific Institutions, 12mo, cloth, 2s 6d.
Riggs' (J. H.) Principles of Wesleyan Methodism, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
Scrymgeour's (D.) Poetry and Poets of Great Britain, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
Spectator, 8vo, cloth, 9s.
Sheldon's Border Minstrelsy, 8vo, cloth, 7s 6d.
Taylor's Class-Book, 12mo, 3s 6d.
Village Notary, translated by Otto Wenckstern, 3 vols, post 8vo, 12 11s 6d.
Wilson's (J.) Claims of the Free Church Examined, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
(Rev. B.) Plain Sermons on Sacrament, 12mo, cloth, 6s 6d.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Feb. 7.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Masters of Arts.—Rev. E. M. Heale, W. F. Blandy, Queen's; Rev. G. H. Richards, Exeter; Rev. R. C. Black, Rev. J. Fisher, Worcester; Rev. R. P. Williams, Lincoln; Rev. H. S. Savory, Oriel; E. Owen, Fellow of Jesus.

Bachelors of Arts.—C. C. Sharpe, M. E. Clissold, Exeter; W. G. H. J. Roe, Pembroke; W. S. Dugdale, H. G. Rolt, Balliol; E. Twopeny, Oriel; H. A. F. Luttrell, A. Peel, Trinity; Rev. E. B. Rice, Pembroke, incorporated from Trinity College, Dublin.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Statistical, 8 p.m.—British Architects, 8 p.m.—Chemical, 8 p.m.—Medical, 8 p.m.—Pathological, 8 p.m.—Royal Academy (Sir R. Westmacott's second Lecture on Sculpture), 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—Luncheon, 8 p.m.—Horticultural, 3 p.m.—Civil Engineers. (Mr. Turner, a Description of the Iron Roof over the Railway Station, Lime-street, Liverpool), 8 p.m.
Wednesday.—Archæological Association, (Council Meeting), 4 p.m.
Thursday.—Royal, 8½ p.m.—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.—Royal Academy, (Mr. Leslie's second Lecture on Painting), 8 p.m.
Friday.—Royal Institution, (Mr. Carmichael on the Manufactures from the Cocoa-nut), 8½ p.m.—Philosophical, 8 p.m.
Saturday.—Royal Botanic, 3½ p.m.—Westminster Medical, 8 p.m.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1850	h. m. a.	1850	h. m. a.
Feb. 16	12 14 22	Feb. 20	12 14 17
17	14 15	21	13 57
18	14 13	22	13 47
19	14 30		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Captain Chénier and the Editor of the "Naval and Military Gazette."—We rejoice to observe that the misunderstanding between these gentlemen has been completely healed, and the mistake which led to it most satisfactorily explained. The result has necessarily been a handsome and cordial reconciliation and mutual acknowledgment of high personal respect. Knowing both parties, though we could not understand the ground of difference, we could not but expect that such would be the result of inquiry into it.

To W. F.—We have to answer that we decline entering into any account of Lady Blessington's first married life with Captain Farmer. If Miss Power has made any mis-statement in the memoir quoted by the *Literary Gazette*, it were the proper course to call on the writer to rectify it; and, after all, it is more a private than a public concern. The work, inquired about by Tyro, is not very scarce, and may be worth £3 or £4; but if he consults Lowndes, he will probably find nearly the exact market value. Goivyn, the translator, published a yet more curious book, the "Trip of Gonzales to the Moon," which was long believed to be from the Spanish, and is now, we believe, very rare. Mr. Lake has misapprehended one sentence of our last week's "quid account" of Professor Faraday's lecture. It was Faraday's, and not Faraday's, hypothesis that negative electricity is the true electricity. As to the admission of "pyrogen" into the list of simple chemical bodies, or as to pyrogenic electricity being actually matter, we should be happy to hear again from Mr. Lake when he is able to weigh in, in which he is not without hope of succeeding.

Music.—*Her Majesty's Theatre*, it is expected, will open in the first week of March, with *Mefisto*, and *Mile. Paroli*, as *Prima Donna*. *La Frigione di Edinburgo*, by Ricci, new to this country, is announced to be performed before Easter, under the immediate direction of the composer, and other novelties to follow in succession, are mentioned; all indicating spirit and enterprise for the ensuing season. But the grand coup is said to be *Shakspere's Tempest*, the libretto by Scribe, and the music by Halsey, *Miranda*, *Sontag*, and *Caliban*. *La Frigione di Edinburgo*, produced at the St. James' on Monday with perfect success, will be more particularly noticed next week.—We ought not, though abridging our musical critique, to neglect noticing the concert in the Hanover Square Rooms, for the benefit of the Widow and Sister of the late C. Horn, which, we rejoice to say, was crowded on the occasion, and the music entirely selected from his sweet and popular compositions.

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